

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2890
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2025

FOOD SECURITY

2890. SHRI CHAMALA KIRAN KUMAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Government has been ensuring better food security since 1947 onwards to till date as per the demands of the State of Telangana and if so, the details thereof including the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(b): whether sustainable food systems and boosting food and nutrition security are another critical pillar of focus for encouraging sustainability efforts and if so, the details thereof including the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c): whether myriad factors including the impact of extreme weather events have exacerbated the global food crisis and if so, the details thereof including the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d): whether the use of technology and other digital tools in promoting sustainable agricultural practices, reducing waste and ensuring equitable access to nutritious food for all would be imperative; and

(e): if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a) & (b): The Central Government has progressively strengthened food security through increased foodgrain production, procurement and buffer stocking. Though the food security at the household level was being addressed by the Government from long through the Public Distribution System and the Targeted Public Distribution System, the enactment of the National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013 on July 5, 2013 marks a paradigm shift in the approach to food security from welfare to rights-based approach. The Act legally entitles upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population to receive free of cost foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System.

The Act provides for food and nutritional security in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to an adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity, in all States/UTs including Telangana. Food security, through attainment of self-sufficiency in food grains production in the country boost the agricultural sector thereby enhancing the economic growth and resultant reduction in poverty levels.

To improve the level of nutrition among the targeted beneficiaries covered under the NFSA, all the States/UTs have been advised to procure millets and distribute to NFSA beneficiaries as per local consumption preferences and as per guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time.

(c): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project to assess climate change impacts on agriculture and district-level risk and vulnerability. Assessments have been completed for 651 agricultural districts as per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) protocols, identifying 310 vulnerable districts, including 109 very highly and 201 highly vulnerable. To enhance farmers' resilience, climate-resilient technologies such as improved rice and wheat cultivation practices, stress-tolerant crop varieties and in-situ residue management are being demonstrated through Krishi Vigyan Kendras in 151 districts covering 448 Climate Resilient Villages. Capacity building through village-level seed banks, community nurseries, crop demonstrations and training under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency is undertaken, along with technical support to additional vulnerable districts. These interventions have improved farmer capacity, crop yields and socio-economic outcomes. Complementary schemes under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, including Per Drop More Crop, Rainfed Area Development, Soil Health and Fertility, horticulture, agroforestry and bamboo missions, and crop insurance schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme further promote sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture. ICAR has also released 2,900 crop varieties during 2014–2024, of which 2,661 are tolerant to biotic and/or abiotic stresses.

(d): The Government has developed several digital platforms and mobile applications to strengthen dissemination of agricultural information, advisory services and scheme delivery. Key initiatives include the Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics (UPAg) for near real-time crop and market data; Krishi Mapper for geo-tagging farmlands and monitoring scheme implementation; Drought Portal for objective drought assessment; YES-TECH for technology-based yield estimation; and WINDS for hyper-local weather data to support advisories, insurance and disaster management. Platforms such as e-NAM, PM-KISAN portal and app, AGMARKNET and Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) enable digital marketing, Direct Benefit Transfer and infrastructure financing. HORTNET under MIDH and the Soil Health Card Portal ensure transparent assistance and soil fertility management. Advisory and insurance support is provided through Kisan Suvidha, National Crop Insurance Portal and AIDE app under PMFBY. The Digital Agriculture Mission aims to build Digital Public Infrastructure through AgriStack and related systems, while AI-

based tools such as Kisan e-Mitra, National Pest Surveillance System and Krishi Saathi enhance farmer-centric advisory and extension services.
