

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Government.

During 2010, 174 complaints have been received from individuals and organizations, as well as through press reports, regarding irregularities in implementation of TPDS.

Complaints received by the Central Government about implementation of TPDS are sent to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for inquiry and necessary action. Further action against officials/persons is taken by the respective State Government/UT Administration. During 2010, action against 6374 persons has been reported by States/UTs for contravention of the provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001.

Government has issued directions to State Governments to streamline functioning of TPDS by enforcing provisions of PDS (Control) Order, 2001. Government has regularly reviewed and also has issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

India's position in Global Hunger Index

1909. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether India continues to languish in the Global Hunger Index despite availability of surplus foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether despite foodgrains being provided to BPL cardholders at a considerably subsidized rate, the nutritional requirement is not met; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to ascertain the factors responsible for malnutrition inspite of surplus foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per the Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report, 2010 published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), India ranked 67th among 84 countries. The Index is a combined measure of undernourishment, underweight in children under age of five and mortality rate of children under the age of five. However, the GHI Report, 2010 does not reflect impact of the latest economic events. For instance, this index is based on 2003-08 data, so it does not reflect India's latest economic performance. Further, child mortality and incidence of underweight in children are not necessarily as a result of only hunger.

The problem of mal-nutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature, determinants of which include household food insecurity, illiteracy and lack of awareness especially in women, access to health services, availability of safe drinking water, sanitation and proper environmental conditions, adequate purchasing power, etc.

In order to address this, under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Department of Food and Public Distribution allocates foodgrains (rice and wheat) @ 35 kg. per family per month to the families living below poverty line. Apart from this, Government also provides subsidy on imported pulses and edible oils for distribution to targeted beneficiaries.

In addition to above, Government also implements other food-based Welfare Schemes like Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, which aims at improving the nutrition and health status of pre-school children in age group of 0-6 years and pregnant women and nursing mothers, Mid-day-Meal (MDM) scheme for primary and upper primary school children in Government, Government-aided and local body schools in the country, Annapoorna Scheme, Village Grain Bank Scheme, Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG), Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP), Scheme for supply of foodgrains for hostels and welfare institutions, etc. being implemented by various Central Ministries through State/UT Governments.

Government also implements several schemes/programmes in partnership with State Governments and UT Administrations which impact directly or indirectly on the nutritional status such as Reproductive Child Health programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) including emphasis on Infant and Young Child Feeding, treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) set up at public health facilities, etc.

Production of sugar

1910. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: