

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2440
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006
ERADICATION OF HUNGER
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any action plan for turning every village into a knowledge centre and making India hunger free by August, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Country possesses necessary capabilities for successful implementation of the said programme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and success achieved therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): The National Commission on Farmers in its first interim Report submitted to the Government has, inter-alia, recommended:

(i) Establishment of a Knowledge Centre in every village to create a veritable platform for knowledge transfers between and across rural communities, scientists, educators, healthcare providers, technology enablers on local agro-ecological and socio-cultural conditions as well as sharing experiences on various farming methods and techniques; and

(ii) Implementation of a Seven-Point Action Plan to make India hunger free by 15th August, 2007.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has intimated that it has not yet firmed up its views on the recommendations. However, the Finance Minister in the Budget Speech for 2005-06 has announced the decision of the Government to provide financial support of Rs.100 crores to begin with, through NABARD under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDC) for establishment of such Centre.

(b) (c) & (d): It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to ensure food security to all with focus on the poor and create a hunger free India. A well Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is one of the effective strategies in respect of poverty alleviation and to enhance food security, at the house hold level. In addition, there are several other schemes which cater to the requirements of the specific target groups such as the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) for the poorest of the poor; Mid-Day Meal Scheme for students of primary schools; Wheat based Nutrition Programme for children below 6 years of age and expectant/lactating women; Annapurna Scheme for indigent senior citizens not getting pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme; Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana for organizing various employment generation programme; Emergency Feeding Programme for old, infirm and destitute persons belonging to Below Poverty Line households to provide them food security in their distress conditions; Grain Bank Scheme to provide safeguard against starvation during the period of natural calamity or during the lean season when the rural people do not have purchasing power; National Food for Work Programme for generation of supplementary wage employment and providing food security, etc. As a sequel to the resolution adopted at the `World Food Summit-Five years later` in Rome for instituting an `International Alliance Against Hunger` the Government of India has constituted a `National Alliance Against Hunger` with various Department/Ministries, Food and Agriculture Organisation, Planning Commission and Non-Governmental organization as its member. The primary aim of this Alliance is to mobilize political will, technical expertise and financial resources to reduce the hunger in the country.