

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2634  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006  
SYMPOSIUM ON FOOD AND NUTRITION  
Harsha Kumar Shri G.V.

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

- (a) Whether a three day international symposium on `Building leadership skills in food and nutrition essential for national development` was held recently ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof ;
- (c) Whether the Government is making efforts for capacity building in food and nutrition ;
- (d) If so, the details thereof ;
- (e) Whether the Government proposes to make significant changes in this area with a view to reducing hunger, poverty and malnutrition by 2015 under the Millennium Development Goal; and
- (f) If so, the details thereof and the progress made therein so far ?

**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)&(b) : Yes, Sir. As per information received from the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, an International Symposium on `Building Leadership Skills in Food and Nutrition essential for National Development` was held at Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore during 23rd to 25th June, 2006. The symposium focused on capacity building in food and nutrition with the technical presentations by distinguished professionals, both international and national.

(c)&(d):The Government is providing financial assistance under Training, Research and Monitoring (TRM) Scheme for imparting training to the people involved in the functioning of the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The training course is intended for functionaries of various levels in the State Food and Civil Supplies Department, State Agencies, field offices, Members of Vigilance Committees, members of the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and reputed NGOs.

As per information received from Food and Nutrition Board (FNB), Ministry of Women and Child Development, A number of Government departments, national Institutions and NGOs are making efforts for capacity building in food and nutrition. The Food and Nutrition Board undertake orientation training of programme managers and field functionaries of the concerned sectors in food and nutrition by organizing Training of Trainers Courses, Orientation Training Courses and Training in Home Scale Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables and Nutrition. The Master of Science degree in Food and Nutrition is imparted by various Home Science Colleges in the Country. Agricultural universities also have a programme of higher education in Food and Nutrition under which M.Sc degree in Food and Nutrition is awarded. There are more than 100 such colleges in the country.

The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) under the aegis of the MWCD is an apex body for training different level functionaries under the Integrated Child Development Services scheme on various food, nutrition and health issues. The National Institute of Nutrition at Hyderabad under the aegis of Indian Council of Medical Research is undertaking both formal and non-formal courses for training in nutrition. The Nutrition Foundation of India (NFI) and Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) the established NGOs are also organizing training programmes in various aspects of Food and Nutrition.

(e)&(f) : `Capacity building for nutrition action` is one of the recommendations of the Working Group on Integrating Nutrition with Health for the XI Five Year Plan constituted by the Planning Commission under the chairpersonship of the Secretary (WCD), the report of which has been submitted to the Planning Commission on 1st November, 2006. However, with a view to reduce hunger, poverty and malnutrition, and maintaining food security in the country, the Government is already allocating subsidized foodgrains for Below Poverty Line, Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Above Poverty Line families under Targetted Public Distribution System and implementing many food based welfare schemes viz. Mid-day-Meal Scheme (MDMS), Wheat Based Nutritional Programme (WBNP), Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG), National Food for Work Programme (NFWP), Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), Special Component of SGRY, Annapurna Scheme, Village Grain Bank Scheme etc.