

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4737
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
FOOD VOUCHERS
Reddy Shri Ch. Malla

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

- (a) whether the Government has held any talks with the World Food Programme to explore the option of food vouchers for the poor people in the country facing starvation and malnourishment;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether it is mandatory to make food available to such vulnerable groups under the National Food Security Act; and
- (d) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. However, the United Nation's World Food Programme (UNWFP) has shared their experience on the use of electronic vouchers in safety nets implemented elsewhere globally with the Government of India.

(c) & (d): The Government of India has passed the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 with the objective to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act has provisions of nutritional support to children and women especially pregnant and lactating women. The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under TPDS. In 11 States/UTs, who have implemented National Food Security Act(NFSA), foodgrains have been allocated under TPDS @ 5 kg. per month per person belonging to priority category and @ 35 kg. per family per month for existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) category as per their entitlement under the Act.