

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 461
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

461. SHRI A. RAJA:
DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:
SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:
SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:
SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:
SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:
SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:
DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has slipped six places and rank 107 out of 121 countries in Global Hunger Index (GH) 2022 as per report released by European NGOs Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, if so, reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government is also aware that the aforesaid rank show that the country's undernourishment level is increasing for the last few years and if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken during last three years to improve nutrition among children in the country;
- (c) the details of the amount sanctioned by the Government for the PM-POSHAN scheme since 2018 till date, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce any new scheme to deal with Malnutrition in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other measures being taken by the Government to improve the position of the country in Global Hunger Index?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e) As per Global Hunger Index 2022 released by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, India stands at rank 107 out of 121 countries with a score of 29.1. India stood at rank 101 out of 116 countries with a score of 27.5 on the Global Hunger Index 2021.

Global Hunger Index (GHI) does not reflect India's true picture as it is a flawed measure of 'Hunger'. It should not be taken at face value as it is neither appropriate nor representative of hunger prevalent in a country. Out of its four indicators, only one indicator, i.e., undernourishment, is directly related to hunger. The two indicators, namely, Stunting and Wasting are outcomes of complex interactions of various other factors like sanitation, genetics, environment and utilisation of food intake apart from hunger which is taken as the causative/outcome factor for stunting and wasting in the GHI. Also, there is hardly any evidence that the fourth indicator, namely, child mortality is an outcome of hunger.

Data on nutritional indicators in the country are captured periodically under the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. As per the recent NFHS-5 (2019-21) report, the nutrition indicators for children under 5 years have improved as compared with NFHS-4 (2015-16). Stunting has reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%, Wasting has reduced from 21.0% to 19.3% and Underweight prevalence has reduced from 35.8% to 32.1%.

The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is making serious efforts to improve the nutritional status of children in the country. POSHAN Abhiyaan, a flagship scheme of the Government was launched in 2018 to address the malaise of malnutrition by adopting a synergized and result oriented approach. Further, to address various policy and systemic needs, the Integrated Child Development Scheme and Anganwadi Services schemes were re-evaluated in respect of programme design, implementation process, outcome and impact and for reassessing the relevance of the programme in achieving its aims and goals. The efforts under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and POSHAN Abhiyaan have been re-aligned as 'Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0' for maximizing nutritional outcomes.

Under Poshan 2.0, focus is on diet diversity, food fortification, leveraging traditional systems of knowledge and popularizing use of millets. Nutrition awareness strategies under Poshan 2.0 aim to develop sustainable health and well-being through regional meal plans to bridge dietary gaps. Strategy of Jan Andolan, has been developed to strengthen convergent actions across multiple stakeholders with focus on exclusive breast-feeding, complimentary feeding, growth monitoring, prevention of

diarrhea, hygiene, water and sanitation, anemia prevention, importance of Poshan Vatikas for cultivation of local vegetables, medicinal plants/herbs and fruits at the community level, etc. Poshan Abhiyaan provides a strong platform for targeted home visits, community-based events (CBEs) and growth monitoring with greater emphasis placed on home visits to promote maternal, infant and young child nutrition practices.

The Government of India approved for supply of fortified rice throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri POshan SHakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN) [erstwhile Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM)] and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) of Government of India in all States and Union Territories (UTs) by 2024 in a phased manner. Phase-I has been implemented covering ICDS and PM-POSHAN. During this phase, nearly 17.51 Lakh Metric Tonnes of fortified rice have been lifted by States/UTs for distribution under ICDS and PM-POSHAN. At present, implementation of Phase-II (2022-23) is in progress from April 2022 covering Phase-I plus TPDS and OWS in 112 Aspirational and 250 High Burden Districts on stunting (total 291 districts). As on 13.11.2022, nearly 16.79 LMT of fortified rice have been lifted by States/UTs for ICDS and PM-POSHAN. As on 13.11.2022, around 250 Aspirational and High Burden districts of 26 States/UTs have lifted fortified rice under TPDS and so far distributed around 22.62 LMT of fortified rice. The implementation of Phase-III (2023-24) will cover Phase-II plus remaining districts of the country by March 2024.

The details of Central assistance released under PM-POSHAN scheme are as under:

S. No.	State/UT	Central Assistance Released (Rs. Crore)					2022-23 (as on 6.12.2022)
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
1	Andhra Pradesh	257.14	257.48	285.64	375.10	357.31	208.72
2	Arunachal Pradesh	25.52	25.06	23.68	29.18	29.69	0.00
3	Assam	529.03	519.82	553.26	757.04	615.70	561.97
4	Bihar	978.72	1124.49	1093.13	1392.48	1030.16	763.99
5	Chhattisgarh	276.83	320.86	254.89	380.81	213.15	225.24
6	Goa	12.31	13.09	12.76	17.09	6.68	7.95
7	Gujarat	404.30	423.52	392.87	528.72	507.06	265.93
8	Haryana	99.54	132.19	108.90	155.73	101.63	72.87
9	Himachal Pradesh	86.84	80.21	75.58	105.00	62.90	51.62
10	Jammu & Kashmir	63.29	106.66	26.66	159.60	122.22	0.00
11	Jharkhand	303.33	332.43	323.11	352.04	251.89	168.09
12	Karnataka	447.89	407.08	520.57	515.54	488.34	341.76
13	Kerala	329.78	198.57	199.62	276.89	184.82	167.38
14	Madhya	580.99	561.92	504.08	827.55	472.20	362.85

	Pradesh						
15	Maharashtra	803.11	981.85	994.69	1002.50	490.75	639.76
16	Manipur	24.80	20.51	21.92	39.00	16.79	0.00
17	Meghalaya	64.87	77.34	78.36	87.34	85.65	47.96
18	Mizoram	20.18	18.89	20.48	23.13	8.93	19.97
19	Nagaland	17.76	28.62	22.79	27.44	14.73	22.19
20	Orissa	419.27	395.57	403.59	583.01	482.09	279.95
21	Punjab	143.31	152.50	138.56	217.69	191.46	100.00
22	Rajasthan	411.07	420.43	472.53	711.00	531.06	393.94
23	Sikkim	8.81	8.81	8.17	8.41	5.01	8.29
24	Tamil Nadu	425.06	420.55	431.21	492.22	232.65	250.27
25	Telangana	154.95	157.57	188.21	45.24	43.35	81.36
26	Tripura	51.19	53.39	55.99	62.21	77.19	30.47
27	Uttarakhand	97.14	94.78	102.73	130.24	124.78	50.12
28	Uttar Pradesh	1004.75	1127.72	1182.02	2071.66	1998.06	700.11
29	West Bengal	971.46	917.10	1071.03	1343.31	1394.12	842.37
30	A&N Islands	3.89	5.85	7.55	6.49	5.40	0.00
31	Chandigarh	6.69	10.63	8.84	13.39	17.22	10.20
32	D&N Haveli	5.38	9.33	5.73	13.08	12.21	7.22
	Daman & Diu	3.32	3.04	2.58			
33	Delhi	52.95	98.08	103.20	112.97	44.04	74.29
34	Lakshadweep	1.18	1.25	0.99	0.33	0.00	0.00
35	Ladakh	0.00	0.00	1.22	5.56	3.77	2.01
36	Puducherry	4.02	5.16	2.90	5.03	3.73	0.00
TOTAL		9090.68	9512.35	9700.04	12874.01	10226.75	6758.85
