

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:842

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay; Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether India is placed at the 65th position in the Global Hunger Index for 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the estimated number of people in the country affected by hunger; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken to address the problem of starvation in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a),(b)&(c): International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has brought out a Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report in October, 2009. In this report India ranks 65 out of 84 nations (developing countries and countries in transition).

The GHI report, 2009 is based on data from 2002 to 2007 & is also based on 3 factors spread over 3 different time-lines; viz Factor(1) proportion of undernourished population, 2003-05 (FAO 2008); Factor(2) prevalence of under-weight in children under-5 years of age, 2002-07 (WHO 2009) and Factor(3) under-five children mortality rate, 2007 (UNICEF 2009). These three factors have thus not been uniformly applied limiting the conclusions for Global Hunger Index (GHI) in IFPRI Report 2009 for the year 2007. However, in IFPRI Report 2009, the GHI score 23.9 for India in 2009 indicates an improvement from the score of 31.7 of 1990.

In order to improve the problem of food and nutritional status of the people to address the issue of starvation in the country, Government is implementing various schemes/programmes. Government allocates foodgrains at subsidized prices to States and Union Territories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for 6.52 Crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35kg /family/month. Allocations for APL category are also made at subsidized prices depending upon their availability in the Central Pool. Presently these allocations range between 10 and 35 kgs/month/ family in different States & Union Territories. Government also implements several other welfare schemes for different sections of society like Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), which aims at improving the nutrition and health status of pre-school children in age group of 0-6 years as also pregnant women and nursing mothers, and mid-day-meal scheme for primary and upper primary school children in government, government-aided and local body schools in the country. Besides, several other schemes such as Annapoorna Scheme, Village Grains Banks Scheme, and Emergency Feeding Programme in KBK districts of Orissa, Scheme for supply of foodgrains for hostels and welfare institutions, and Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) are also being implemented by various Central Ministries in partnership with State and Union Territory Governments.