

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:451  
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010  
FOOD BANK  
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

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

- (a) whether the Government has received suggestions for developing a food bank in the country on the lines of the Global Food Banking Network for eliminating hunger in the country by 2025;
- (b) if so, the details and the objectives thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the manner of functioning of the said bank alongwith the benefits likely to accrue therefrom particularly in the poor and backward areas chronically affected by hunger; and
- (d) the assistance likely to be received from the Global Food Bank and other similar organisations in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a),(b),(c)&(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.451 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27.04.2010 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (d): Government has not received any proposal for developing a food bank in the country on the lines of The Global Food Banking Network.

The Global Food Banking Network is a nonprofit organization engaged in supporting food banks and food bank networks for fighting hunger throughout the world. The Food Banking Networks are nonprofit distribution enterprises that serve the communities directly. These acquire donated food and make it available to people directly through a network of community agencies. These agencies support school feeding programs, community feeding programs, institutional feeding programs, substance abuse clinics, after-school programs and other nonprofit organizations. Information available in the public domain also states that The India Food Banking Network, Planning Forum has been launched on 17th November, 2009 in Delhi as an effort to augment food security with the establishment of a food banking system to support feeding programs that already exist throughout India and to help develop new programs.

In order to address the issue of food security in the country, Government is implementing several programmes/schemes like Mid-day-Meal (MDM) Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), Annapoorna Scheme etc. Government is also allocating foodgrains at subsidized prices to States and Union Territories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for 6.52 Crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35kg per family per month. Allocations of foodgrains for APL category are also made between 10 kg. and 35 kg. per family per month at subsidized prices depending upon their availability in the Central Pool and past offtake by States. Government is also implementing a Village Grain Banks Scheme in the food scarce areas of the country for the food insecure households and poor, particularly BPL/AAY people living in inaccessible hilly and drought prone areas. Besides, as announced by the Hon'ble President of India in her address to the joint session of Parliament on 4th June, 2009, the Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act that envisages, inter-alia, entitling every family below the poverty line, by law, to a certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices.