

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:224

ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010

HUNGER INDEX

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

- (a) whether the position of India has declined in the Global Hunger Index, 2010 brought out by the International Food Policy Research Institute;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the hunger index in the country, State-wise; and
- (c) the corrective measures being taken to reduce hunger in the country?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has brought out a Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report in October, 2010. In this report, India ranks 67th among 84 developing countries while its ranking was 65th among 84 developing countries in GHI Report, 2009. The GHI Report, 2010 is based on data from 2003 to 2008 relating to three factors, namely (i) the proportion of undernourished as percentage of the population (2004-06 data); (ii) the prevalence of under-weight in children under the age of five (2003-08 data) and (iii) the mortality rate of children under the age of five (2008 data). The GHI Report attaches equal weight to all the three indicators without giving any justification. It also does not reflect impact of the latest economic events. Further, child mortality and incidence of underweight in children are not necessarily as a result of hunger. State-wise details are not available in the GHI Report, 2010, though they were covered in GHI Report, 2008.

(c) In order to address the issue of food security in the country, 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) families @ 35kg per family per month. Allocations of foodgrains for APL category are also made at subsidized prices depending upon their availability in the Central Pool and past offtake by States. Government is also implementing other welfare schemes like Mid-day-Meal (MDM) Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), Annapoorna Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also proposes to enact a National Food Security Act that envisages, inter-alia, entitling by law every family below the poverty line to a certain quantity of subsidized foodgrains each month.