

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1513  
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011  
GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX  
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**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Global Hunger Index (GHI) prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the report of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has painted a very grim picture regarding access of poor to food and incidence of hunger in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the causes identified for prevalence of hunger and shortage of food in the country;
- (c) the details regarding the efforts made for eliminating hunger in the country alongwith the success achieved therein; and
- (d) the efforts being made for strengthening food security in the country in order to remove hunger and improve availability of foodgrains in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): In the Global Hunger Index(GHI) Report released by the International Food Policy Research Institute(IFPRI) in October, 2010, India has been ranked 67th among 84 countries. The Index is a combined measure of undernourishment, underweight in children under the age of five; and mortality rate of children under the age of five. The index ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst.GHI Report, 2010 does not specifically give the causes identified for hunger and shortage of food in the country. It is rather an index trying to present a quick overview of a complex issue. The index gives a lot of weight to the nutrition status of a physiologically vulnerable group i.e. children. Another limitation of the report is that it is based on data from 2003 to 2008 and does not take into account the increase in availability and distribution of food in the country thereafter.

(c) & (d): In order to address the issue of food security in the country, Government is proposing for enactment of the National Food Security bill to provide for food and nutritional security, in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices, for people to live a life with dignity. Strengthening and streamlining of Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS) is a continuous process. Government has regularly reviewed it and has also issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen functioning of TPDS by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, use of Information and Communication Technology(ICT) tools and by improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop(FPS) operations.Government also allocates foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to States and Union Territories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for 6.52 crore families living below poverty line.Besides, Government implements various schemes/programmes in partnership with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to improve the nutrition status of people of the country. Government is also implementing food based other welfare schemes like Mid-day-Meal(MDM) Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP) to ensure improvement of the nutritional status of children and expectant/lactating women. Under MDM scheme 12.71 lakh tons of foodgrains and under WBNP 15.17 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated during 2011-12.Under TPDS Government has made 105.66 lakh tons of rice and wheat as "additional allocation" including 50 lakh tons for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families at BPL prices during 2010-11. Similarly, during the current year, the Government made an adhoc additional allocation of 50 lakh tons of rice and wheat for distribution to BPL families at BPL issue prices in all the districts of States/UTs. Allocation of 50 lakh tons of Rice and Wheat has also been made during current year to Above Poverty Line(APL) families. Apart from these, on the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court for allocation of additional foodgrains to 150 poorest districts and the subsequent recommendations of the Central Vigilance Committee on Public Distribution System, Government has allocated 2.57 lakh tons of rice and wheat to 8 States covering 45 districts so far.