

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:112

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2011

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2011 prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) focusing on the issue of 'child undernutrition' wherein the situation in India has been ranked as 'alarming';

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the status of undernourishment and starvation in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of targeted strategies to ensure food sufficiency such as Annapurna, Village Grain Banks and other schemes on hunger/nutrition in the country;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof alongwith the funds allocated and spent thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government has taken any steps to provide adequate nutrition to the children and other vulnerable sections of the society; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 112 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 29.11.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) & (b): The Global Hunger Index (GHI) by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is based on three equal weight indicators which are (i) under nourishment reflected by the proportion of under nourished as a percentage of the population, (ii) child under weight reflected by the proportion of children younger than the age of five who are under weight, (iii) child mortality reflected by the mortality rate of children younger than the age of five. India has ranked 67th as per the GHI in 2011. The 2011 Index was calculated for 122 countries and reflects data from the year 2004 to 2009. The data on proportion of under-nourished is as per the years 2005 to 2007. Data on child under weight is for the years 2004 to 2009. Data on child mortality is for the year 2009. The score of India on the Index is 23.7 which they have rated as alarming.

The Government has taken note of the GHI findings but there are some major limitations with the nature of IFPRI study as well as Global Hunger Index. (A) It is based on past data and does not take into account the most recent increase in availability and distribution of foodgrains which has happened in India between 2009 and 2011. (B) It is based on three closely inter-related indicators which all reflect the status of health care and that also mainly in the case of children and do not reflect the hunger or lack of access to food in the society. (C) The data is not test checked or validated by any large scale primary field surveys. The GHI Index, 2011 does not give a list of state-wise rankings but IFPRI's study of 2008 for Global Hunger Index gave a list of such ranking which is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(c) to (f): For assessing the impact of targeted strategies to ensure food sufficiency, the Government has got some evaluation studies on functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) done by various agencies like Programme Evaluation Organization of Planning Commission, ORG-Marg, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). The findings of these studies have been sent to the State Governments/UT Administrations for taking corrective actions. An evaluation of the Village Grain Bank was also done by an independent agency, M/s. GFK Mode. Another study was also undertaken by the World Food Programme (WFP) in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. The findings of these evaluation studies have indicated that the presence of Village Grain Banks has significantly improved the food security of those households that faced food shortage before the Scheme. Because of the Scheme, people have stopped migrating during the lean season. However, there has been no evaluation study for Annapurna so far.

To address the issue of hunger in the country and to ensure that people living below poverty line get adequate foodgrains, Government

implements several schemes in partnership with State Governments/ UT Administrations. One such scheme is TPDS, under which foodgrains are allocated at subsidized prices to States/UTs for a total number of 6.52 crore BPL families including 2.5 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg. per family per month. Furthermore, allocations of foodgrains for APL (Above Poverty Line) families is also made at subsidized prices depending upon the availability of stocks and past offtake by the States/UTs. Government also implements Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) like Annapurna for senior citizens and Village Grain Bank Scheme through Department of Food & Public Distribution. The details of TPDS allocations and offtake, Other Welfare Schemes and Annapurna and Village Grain Bank Scheme are given at Annexures –II to IV.

For providing adequate nutrition to the children and pregnant/lactating mothers, a special scheme called Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is being implemented in collaboration with State Governments/UT Administrations. The Scheme provides a package of six services namely supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition and health education, immunization health check-up and referral services. The Scheme has been universalized with special focus on SC & ST and minority habitations. The services cover 950 lakh beneficiaries out of which 770 lakhs are children and 180 lakhs are pregnant and lactating mothers. Besides, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing scheme for all-round development of adolescent girls where there is a provision for nutrition, health check-ups and referral services, nutrition and health education, counseling and guidance for family welfare etc. There is another new scheme called Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) introduced from 2010-11 and launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development on trial basis in 52 districts from all States/UTs wherein cash incentives are provided for health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers. There is a Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDM) meant for primary and upper primary children being implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.