

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:892  
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012  
FOOD SECURITY INDEX  
Dhruvanarayana Shri R.

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

- (a) whether India ranks lower than China in the latest global food security index;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): As per Global Food Security Index(GFSI), 2012 brought out by the Economist Intelligence Unit(EIU) of the news magazine 'The Economist', India ranks 66 while China has been accorded rank of 37 out of 105 countries.

The index has been designed and constructed by the Economist Intelligence Unit of 'The Economist' news magazine and is sponsored by DuPONT, an American Company working in the area of food security issues. The EIU exercises full and final editorial control over all contents, including data gathering, analysis and forecasting.

The report has not provided the data on indicators used in the construction of the index. Hence, it is felt that this index did not reflect the actual food security situation of the country in terms of lack of access to food in the society. Moreover, methods used for data gathering, its analysis and forecasting are not test checked/validated by Government of India or any UN agencies. Hence, the position of the country in the Food Security Index, 2012 may not be justified.

The Government of India has accorded high priority to the issue of hunger and malnutrition in the country and is implementing several schemes/programmes through different Ministries/ Departments through State Governments/UT Administrations to improve food security situation in the country. Under Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS), 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 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 like Integrated Child Development Service Scheme (ICDS) for pre-school children and pregnant and lactating mothers through the Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) through Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM) for primary and upper primary children through Ministry of Human Resource Development, Annapurna Scheme for the senior citizens, Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls, Emergency Feeding Programme, etc.

To ensure food security in the country, Government has introduced 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.