

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6455  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013  
GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY INDEX  
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the recently published results of the Global Food Security Index (GFSI)-2012 that raises concerns over affordability, accessibility and quality and safety of food in the country inspite of reasonable availability;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the other major India specific findings of GFSI and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the GFSI has also revealed that the nutrition level in the country is low and that it is even lower than that of Pakistan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has any plans to incorporate these or similar benchmarks including nutrition level, accessibility, quality of food in the draft legislation on food security or in the Public Distribution System; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) Global Food Security Index(GFSI), 2012 which has been brought out by the news magazine 'The Economist', in its issue of January, 2013 and available in public domain, ranks India 66 out of 105 countries.

The Global Food Security Index considers the core issues of affordability, availability, quantity and safety of food across both developing and developed countries. The Index gives scores ranging from 0-100, where 100 is most favourable.

As per GFSI-2012, the other findings for India are i) Affordability is 37.8 with category rank 70; ii) Availability is 51.3 with category rank 52; and iii) Quality and Safety is 44.2 with category rank 73. Overall, India ranks 66 with a score 44.8 while Pakistan ranks 76 with a score 38.1. However, in the category Quality and Safety which measures the variety and nutritional quality of average diets, as well as the safety of food, India ranks at 73 with a score of 44.2 while Pakistan ranks 56 with a score of 55.5.

(e) & (f) The proposed National Food Security Bill addresses the issue of affordability, accessibility and effective coverage under the Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS) by entitling about two thirds of the population to receive foodgrains at highly subsidized prices. The Bill inter-alia contains provisions for nutritional support to pregnant women and lactating mothers by entitling them to meals, free of charge, as per specified nutritional standards. Besides, during pregnancy and six months after the child birth they are entitled maternity benefit of rupees one thousand per month for a period of six months. The Bill has also provisions of age appropriate meals, free of charge, for children to meet their nutritional standards.