

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:329  
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014  
GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX  
Chauhan Shri Devusinh Jesingbhai

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

- (a) whether India ranks 66 amongst 88 countries in global hunger index as per a recent report of the Food and Agricultural Organisation and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to look into all the aspects relating to the country mentioned in the aforesaid report and take corrective measures and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the role likely to be played by the National Food Security Act and the existing Public Distribution System in this context;
- (d) the approximate number of Below Poverty Line families/population likely to be covered under the said Act; and
- (e) the steps taken to make the country hunger-free?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

(a) : The report on Global Hunger Index(GHI) is brought out annually by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) based on available data taken from Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Bank. As per the GHI Report, 2014, India ranked 55 out of 120 countries. Ranking is based on combining three equally weighted indicators i.e. undernourishment, underweight in children under age of five and mortality rate of children under the age of five.

(b) to (e): The Government of India has accorded high priority to the issue of hunger and malnutrition in the country and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UT Administrations to improve food security situation in the country. These include Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP) for providing Supplementary Nutrition, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme 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 (MDM) Scheme 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.

Under the existing Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS), States/Union Territories (UTs) are allocated foodgrains @35 kg per family per month to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) [including Antyodaya Anna Yojana(AAY)] families as per their entitlement by the Government of India.

The Government has enacted the National Food Security Act(NFSA), 2013 which provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population to receive highly subsidized foodgrains under TPDS. Under this Act, two-thirds of the total population of the country or approximately 81 crore persons are estimated to receive benefits under TPDS. The Act also contains provisions for nutritional support to Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers or children below 14 years of age.