

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2620
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014
HUNGER AND STARVATION
Mondal Shri Sunil Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any survey regarding the prevalence of hunger, starvation and malnutrition in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Global Hunger Index (GHI) brought out by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in its report of 2014 has mentioned India's rank as 55 out of 120 countries with a score of 17.8. It is observed from the report that India's score has come down from 26.9 in 1995 to 17.8 in 2014.

(c): For addressing the problem of hunger and to ensure that people living below poverty line get adequate food grains, the Government has been providing food grains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through the State Governments/Union Territory(UT) Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). These include Mid Day Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Annapurna and welfare Institutions scheme. All these schemes/programmes have potential to address one or other aspect of hunger and malnutrition.

To further strengthen the efforts to address the food security of the people, Government of India has notified the National food Security Act, 2013 on 10th September, 2013. The act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices of Rs.3,2 & 1 per Kg for rice, wheat & coarse grains respectively under Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS), thus covering about two-third of the population. The Act has a special focus also on nutritional support to women and children, Pregnant women and lactating mothers who will be entitled to meals as nutritional norms as well as to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000. Children upto 14 years of age will be entitled to nutritious meals or take home rations as per the prescribed nutritional standards. In case of non supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries will received food security allowance.