GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OFCONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO12.11.2010

ANSWERED ON

INDIA S RANK IN GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX .

509   Smt.   Gundu Sudharani

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 2010 Global Hunger Index Report has recently been released by International Food Policy Research Institute;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that India ranked lower than Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and China in the hunger index;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India slipped from 65th position last year to 67th position this year despite good economic growth; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a):   Yes, Sir.

(b)to(d): The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has released 2010 Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report in October, 2010.   The index is a combined measure of undernourishment, child malnutrition and child mortality.   The index ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst.   In this report, India ranks 67th among 84 developing countries while its ranking was 65th among 84 developing countries in 2009 GHI Report.

In the GHI report, 2010, the Global Hunger Index score for India is 24.1 while the same index scores are 20 for Nepal, 19.1 for Pakistan, 14.5 for Sri Lanka and 6.0 for China indicating that India's rank is higher than these countries.

The GHI Report, 2010 does not reflect impact of the latest economic events.   Further, child mortality and incidence of underweight in children are not necessarily as a result of only hunger.   Since the data in this Index are of 2003-08, they do not reflect India's latest performance. Also as informed by IFPRI, the 2010 and 2009 Global Hunger Index rankings are not directly comparable due to slight revisions in the underlying data.