

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1845
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH MARCH, 2020

**UTILISATION OF HUGE STOCK OF FOODGRAINS TO ELIMINATE
HUNGER IN THE COUNTRY**

1845. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that even after the huge stock of foodgrains in the Government's godowns across the country, India ranks 102 out of the 117 countries in the Global Hunger Index, 2019 which is a very serious concern for the food security of the people of the country;
- (b) if so, the action that has been taken by Government to judiciously utilise the foodgrains which are stored in the godowns; and
- (c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD &
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)

(a) & (b): As per information available in the public domain (<https://www.concern.net/insights/global-hunger-index-2019>), India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019 brought out by Concern World Wide is 102. As per GHI Report 2019 of Concern World Wide, the composite GHI scores of India have improved from 38.8 in 2000 to 30.3 in 2019. Thus, the country has shown consistent improvement over the years.

The Government of India accords high priority to the issue of hunger and has been providing foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).

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NFSA provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population of the country for receiving foodgrains @ Rs 1/2/3 per kg for nutri-cereals/wheat/rice respectively. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, receive 35 Kg of foodgrains per household per month. The coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

During the year 2018-19, the Government allocated a quantity of 612.18 lakh MT of foodgrains to the States/UTs under NFSA and various schemes. During the current year i.e. 2019-20, the Government of India has so far allocated 603.95 lakh MT of foodgrains. The scheme of End-to-End Computerization of the PDS has ensured rightful targeting of the beneficiaries all over the country. Thus, the Government has successfully allocated foodgrains for all the eligible schemes/beneficiaries.

The implementation of NFSA through the Public Distribution System (PDS) is a joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations. The State Governments/UT Administrations are responsible for the identification of beneficiaries and distribution of foodgrains to them.

Further, Government of India has issued advisories to all States/UTs to identify and cover the weakest sections of the society under PDS and launch special drives to issue ration cards to them. Advisories have been issued to all State/UTs that no beneficiary/household shall be deleted from the list of eligible beneficiaries/households only on the grounds of not possessing Aadhaar and shall also not be denied subsidized foodgrains or cash transfer of food subsidy under NFSA due to non-availability of Aadhaar or failure of biometric authentication.

(c) In view of the above, does not arise.
