

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3029
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

3029. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the position of India in Global Hunger Index;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the rank of India is not good;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, including the details of the efforts made by Government to bring improvement in this;
- (d) whether Government propose to increase the quantity of food items provided to the ration card holders, to address the problem of hunger; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (e): Global Hunger Index (GHI) is published by three Non-Government Organizations (viz., Welt Hunger Hilfe of Germany, Concern Worldwide of Ireland and Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict of Germany). GHI does not reflect correct picture of reality in India. It is a flawed measure of 'Hunger' and does not bring out India's actual position. Three out of four of its constituent indicators namely, Stunting, Wasting and Under Five Mortality Rate are actually related to health and nourishment levels of children. They cannot be projected to reflect prevalence of hunger in the overall population. Global Hunger Index 2024 has ranked India at 105 out of 127 countries. It had ranked India at 111 out of 125 countries in 2023.

Various rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare since 1992-93 have shown improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across India. Details of these indicators for children since NFHS-1 to NFHS-5 are given below:

NFHS Survey	Underweight %	Wasting %	Stunting %
NFHS-1 (1992-93)*	53.4	17.5	52.0
NFHS-2 (1998-99)**	47.0	15.5	45.5
NFHS-3 (2005-6)***	42.5	19.8	48.0
NFHS-4 (2015-16)***	35.8	21.0	38.4
NFHS-5 (2019-21)***	32.1	19.3	35.5

* Under 4 years

** Under 3 years

*** Under 5 years

The above table gives a representative picture of malnutrition indicators among all children of 0-3 years, 0-4 years and 0-5 years age at that time.

"The projected population of all children up to 5 years in India for the year 2021 is 13.75 crores approximately (source: Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare). However, only 7.49 crores children up to 5 years are enrolled in Anganwadis and registered on Poshan Tracker of the Ministry of Women & Child Development as per the February 2025 data. 7.25 crores of these children were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 39.08% of these children have been found to be stunted, 16.6% children have been found to be underweight and only 5.34% children have been found to be wasted.

Further, the projected population of all children in India up to 6 years for the year 2021 is approximately 16.1 crores. As per the February 2025 data of Poshan Tracker, 8.8 crores children (0-6 years) are enrolled in Anganwadis out of whom 8.52 crores were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. 37.7% of these children (0-6 years) have been found to be stunted and 17.1% children (0-6 years) have been found to be underweight."

Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-East region) were subsumed under the umbrella Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) during the 15th Finance Commission. Mission Poshan 2.0 seeks to address the challenge of malnutrition through improved nutrition content and delivery. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, where the responsibility of implementation lies with the States and UTs.

Nutritional support through Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) is one of the integral components of Mission Poshan 2.0, under which supplementary nutrition is provided to children (06 months to 6 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers (PWLM) and Adolescent Girls (14 to 18 years) in order to bridge the gap in the Average Daily Intake of nutrients as compared to the Recommended Dietary Allowances which are suggested for Indian population by the National Institute of Nutrition. The nutrition norms for supplementary

nutrition are contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act, 2013. In order to address the challenge of malnutrition more effectively, these norms have been revised recently to make them more comprehensive and balanced in terms of both quantity and quality of supplementary nutrition based on the principles of diet diversity that provides quality protein, healthy fats and essential micronutrients.

Further, only fortified rice enriched with essential micronutrients such as iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12 is supplied under the supplementary nutrition to meet the requirement of micronutrients and control anaemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is also given on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal at least once a week and Take Home ration at Anganwadi centers for beneficiaries.

Government of India accords high priority to the issue of hunger and has been providing food grains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through State Governments/Union Territory administrations. The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) being implemented in all the States and UTS, on an all India basis, aims to supplement the food requirements of upto 75% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. Under the Act, while Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains, per households per month, Priority Households (PHH) are entitled to 5kg of foodgrains per person per month free of cost. At present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, 80.56 crore beneficiaries are receiving food grains free of cost. The Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. At present, no proposal for the enhancement of entitlement of the beneficiaries under the Act is under the consideration of the Government.

In order to reduce anaemia and micronutrient deficiency among the targeted population, the Government of India is supplying fortified rice throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme, and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme/Poshan 2.0 and in Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) in all States and Union Territories (UTs). Custom-milled rice has been replaced with fortified rice in every scheme of the Government.
