

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOKSABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 206
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2018

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

206. SHRI M.B. RAJESH
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether as per the report, a fifth of Indian children below five are underweight and a third of them under height and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether malnutrition has been a major contributing factor to the poor ranking of India in GHI and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether India lags behind its South Asian neighbours in nutritional levels of children and if so, the comparative details thereof along with the reasons for such lagging; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to address the issue of malnutrition and health condition of children?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

- (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 206 for 09.02.2018 by Shri M.B. Rajesh and Dr. Kirit Somaiya regarding Global Hunger Index

- (a) As per the Global Hunger Index, 2017, India has a rank of 100 out of 119 countries.
- (b) As per the report, 21% Children are Wasted. The report also states that there is improvement in the prevalence of Stunting among children in the country, which is 38% as per 2015-16 data, and has decreased in each of the reference periods in the report.
- (c) The position of the country in GHI is dependent on four component indicators namely undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality which are used to arrive at the GHI scores.
- (d) Among the South Asian nations, Pakistan and Afghanistan lag behind India in nutritional levels of children.
- (e) Government is implementing several schemes and programs, i.e., Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.

Apart from the above schemes, recently, the Government has set up National Nutrition Mission (NNM) for improving the nutritional indicators of children and pregnant women and lactating mothers.

As a result of the concerted efforts of the Government, the level of malnutrition among women and children has reduced in the country as is evident from the recent report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 4 (2015-16), which shows reduction from the previous NFHS-3 levels.
