

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 595
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022

INDIA'S RANKING IN GHI

595. SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM:

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

- (a) the details of India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report since 2014 upto the current year, year-wise;
- (b) the manner in which the Government will achieve the target of zero hunger with India's abysmal ranking of 107 out of 121 countries in the GHI for 2022;
- (c) whether it is a fact that India's GHI score out of 100 has increased from 28.2 in 2014 to 29.1 in 2022, showing a worsening of the hunger crisis, and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the number of starvation related deaths among children and adults in India since 2014, year-wise, including the current year?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d) Global Hunger Index (GHI) does not reflect India's true picture as it is a flawed measure of 'Hunger'. It should not be taken at face value as it is neither appropriate nor representative of hunger prevalent in a country. Out of its four indicators, only one indicator, i.e., undernourishment, is directly related to hunger. The two indicators, namely, Stunting and Wasting are outcomes of complex interactions of various other factors like sanitation, genetics, environment and utilisation of food intake apart from hunger which is taken as the causative/outcome factor for stunting and wasting in the GHI. Also, there is hardly any evidence that the fourth indicator, namely, child mortality is an outcome of hunger.

As per Global Hunger Index 2022 released by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, India stands at rank 107 out of 121 countries with a score of 29.1. India stood at rank 55 out of 76 countries with a score of 28.2 in 2014. Indian rank was 80 out of 104 countries in 2015, 97 out of 118 countries in 2016, 100 out of 119 countries in 2017, 103 out of 119 countries in 2018, 102 out of 117 countries in 2019, 94 out of 107 countries in 2020 and 101 out of 116 countries in 2021.

The Government of India has implemented the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) in all the States / Union Territories, on an all-India basis with a maximum coverage of 81.35 Crore persons thus addressing hunger alleviation of the bottom 67% of the population at 2011 census. The Act provides for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. It marks a paradigm shift in the approach to food security from welfare to rights-based approach. 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, against the intended coverage of 81.35 Crore persons, the States/UTs have already identified 80.03 Crore persons.

There is no report of starvation deaths from States / UTs.
