

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1399
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th FEBRUARY, 2020**

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX-2019

1399. SHRI ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY:

SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the Global Hunger Index-2019, India ranks a lowly 102 out of 117 nations categorized as a nation with serious levels of hunger, if so, whether India's ranking has slipped dramatically since 2014 and if so, the reasons therefor;**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that India ranked lower than Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and China in the Global Hunger Index, if so, the facts thereof and the reasons for failure of the Government mechanism in providing 2 square meals to the citizens of the country;**
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Index placed India among the countries that have serious levels of hunger, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the reasons that people with hunger in India have gone up from 785 million in 2005 to 822 million in 2015; and**
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to enhance India's ranking in Global Hunger Index to achieve zero hunger by 2030 as per Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and if so, the details thereof and if not, 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) to (c): Yes Sir. 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. India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2014 was 55. 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. Pakistan is ranked 94, Sri Lanka is ranked 66, Nepal is ranked 73 and China is ranked 25.

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(d) & (e): 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).

NFSA provides for coverage of about 813 million beneficiaries with provision for 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. Identification of beneficiaries under the Act is under two categories- households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH), within the coverage determined for the State/UT. While Priority Households are entitled to receive 5 kg per person per month, AAY households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, continue to receive 35 Kg of foodgrains per household per month. At present, the Act is being implemented in all the States/UTs covering about 80 crore persons to get highly subsidized foodgrains. The coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. The Act also has a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children. Pregnant women, lactating mothers and children upto 14 years of age are entitled to nutritious meals, free of cost, as per the prescribed nutritional standards. In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance. The Act also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels. The implementation of NFSA through the Public Distribution System (PDS) is a joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations, and the State Governments/UT Administrations are responsible for the identification of beneficiaries under the NFSA.

During the year 2018-19, the Government allocated a quantity of 612.18 lakh MT of foodgrains to the States/UTs under NFSA, Other Welfare Schemes and allocations due to natural calamities and festivals. During the current year i.e. 2019-20, the Government of India has so far allocated 603.95 lakh MT of foodgrains under NFSA, OWS and additional allocations. The scheme of End-to-End Computerization of the PDS has ensured rightful targeting of the beneficiaries all over the country.

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.
