

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 39
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2nd February, 2021**

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FOOD SECURITY

39. SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:

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

- (a) whether Covid-19 crisis could pose long term effects on food security and nutrition across the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps to overcome this issue immediately;**
- (c) whether our country fares poorly in hunger index across the world; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps to overcome this issue?**

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD &
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO)**

(a) & (b): Government undertook timely and concrete measures to ensure that there are no long term effects of the Covid-19 crisis on food security and nutrition in the country. To fulfill this objective, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and Atma Nirbhar Bharat (ANB) Programme were launched to ensure that the targeted beneficiaries do not face any issue of food security on account of the pandemic.

Pradhan Mantri – Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) provided for additional allocation of foodgrains @ 5 kg per person per month free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (Antyodaya Anna Yojana & Priority Households) for a period of 8 months i.e. April to November, 2020. This was over and above the monthly benefit provided under the National Food Security Act, 2013 to about 80 crore persons. In addition to this, as part of the economic measures (Atma Nirbhar Bharat), allocation of foodgrains, free of cost, had been made to all the States/Union Territories, for the month of May and June, 2020, for stranded migrants not covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013 or any other State scheme/PDS. Such beneficiaries were eligible for 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month.

(c) & (d): The rank and score of India under the Global Hunger Index (GHI) published annually by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe is as follows:

India's performance	GHI 2018	GHI 2019	GHI 2020
Score	31.10	30.30	27.20
Rank	103 out of 119	102 out of 117	94 out of 107

As per GHI Reports the composite GHI scores of India have improved from 38.9 in 2000 to 31.10 in 2018 and further to 27.2 in 2020.

Various initiatives have been taken by the Government to address the problem of malnutrition and micro-nutrient deficiency in the country. Government launched the POSHAN Abhiyan in March, 2018 to comprehensively address the problem of malnutrition in the country covering children from 0-6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers in a time bound manner.

Further, to address anemia and micro-nutrient deficiency in the country, Government of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on “Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS)” for a period of 3 years beginning in 2019-20 with total outlay of Rs.174.64 Crore. The pilot scheme is intended to focus on 15 districts preferably one district per State for distribution of fortified rice under the Public Distribution System.