

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1843  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2024

**GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX**

1843. SHRI RAJKUMAR ROAT

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

- (a) Whether India ranks 107 in the list of 121 countries in Global Hunger Index.
- (b) if so, the details of the efforts made by the government to bring improvement in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase the quantity of food items provided to the ration card holders under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana and bringing more families under its ambit to address the problem of starvation, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of families covered under the Food Security Mission during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (d): The 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 (GHI) 2023 Report released by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, India stands at rank 111 out of 125 countries with a score of 28.7 which is an improvement over the GHI 2022 score 29.1.

The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition. Under 15th Finance Commission, Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent girls (14-18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-East region) were subsumed under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0). Mission Poshan 2.0 seeks to address the challenge of malnutrition through improved nutrition content and delivery. It is a Centre Sponsored Scheme, where the responsibility of implementation of the scheme is with the States.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0 a strategic shift has been made for reduction in malnutrition and for improved health, wellness and immunity through community engagement, outreach, behavioral change, and advocacy. Mission Poshan 2.0 focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)/ Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and wellness through AYUSH practices to reduce wasting, underweight prevalence, stunting and anaemia. Immunization, Health Check-up, and Referral Services to the beneficiaries are supported by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Mission Poshan 2.0 in convergence with more than 18 Ministries/Departments supports and implements programmes to tackle malnutrition and promote health and wellness.

Under this scheme, Supplementary Nutrition is provided in accordance with the nutrition norms contained in Schedule-II of the National Food Security Act. To address the challenge of malnutrition more effectively, these nutrition norms have been revised. The old norms were largely calorie-specific, however, the revised norms are 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 micronutrients.

Only fortified rice is being supplied to AWCs to meet the requirement of micro-nutrients and control anaemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is being given on the use of millets (Shree Anna) for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal at least once a week and Take Home ration (THR – not raw ration) at Anganwadi centers for beneficiaries.

Ministry of Women & Child Development and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare jointly released the protocol for Community Management of Malnutrition (CMAM) to prevent and treat severe acute malnutrition in children and for reducing associated morbidity and mortality.

Under Mission Poshan 2.0, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to Jan Andolan to educate the people on nutritional aspects. State and UTs are conducting and reporting regular

sensitisation activities under community engagement programmes during Poshan Maahs and Poshan Pakhwadas celebrated in the months of September and March-April respectively. Community Based Events (CBEs) have served as a significant strategy in changing nutrition practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month.

The indicators for malnutrition like children being underweight, stunted or wasted have shown a steady improvement as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. As per the report of NFHS-5 (2019-21), the nutrition indicators for children under 5 years have improved as compared with NFHS-4 (2015-16). Stunting has reduced from 38.4% to 35.5%, while Wasting has reduced from 21.0% to 19.3% and Underweight prevalence has reduced from 35.8% to 32.1%.

As per the data of Poshan Tracker for the month of June 2024, around 8.57 crore children under 6 years were measured, out of whom 35% were found to be stunted, 17% were found to be underweight and 6% children under 5 years were found to be wasted. The levels of underweight and wasting in children as obtained from Poshan Tracker data are much less than those projected by NFHS 5.

Further, the Government released Streamlined Guidelines dated 13.1.2021 for greater transparency, accountability and quality in the nutrition support programme and service delivery. These guidelines emphasize on ensuring the quality of supplementary nutrition, highlight roles and responsibilities of duty holders, IT enabled data management and monitoring, leveraging of traditional knowledge through AYUSH, procurement and convergence for achieving good nutritional outcomes.

The Government of India also 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 under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing National Food Security Mission (NFSM) with the objective of increasing food grains production through area expansion and productivity enhancement in all the 28 states and 2 Union Territories (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh) of the country. Under NFSM assistance is given through state governments to farmers for interventions like cluster demonstrations on improved package of practices, demonstrations on cropping system, distribution of seeds of High Yielding Varieties (HYVs)/hybrids, improved farm machineries/resource conservation machineries/tools, efficient water application tools, plant protection measures, nutrient management/soil ameliorants, processing & post-harvest equipments, cropping system based trainings to the farmers etc. The mission also provides support to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) & State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/ Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for technology back

stopping and transfer of technology to the farmer under supervision of Subject Matter Specialists/Scientists.

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) being implemented in all the States/UTs, on an all-India basis, aims to supplement the food requirements of up to 75% of the rural and up to 50% of the urban population, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. The Coverage under the PMGKAY is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

Under the PMGKAY, while Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of food grains, per family per month, Priority Households (PHH) are entitled to 5 kg of food grains per person per month, free of cost, w.e.f. 1st January, 2023 till 31st December, 2028.

At present, out of the total intended coverage of 81.35 crore, 80.54 crore persons are covered under PMGKAY. The scheme of End-to-End Computerization of the PDS has ensured rightful targeting of the beneficiaries all over the country." State wise coverage may be seen at **Annexure I**.

At present, there is **no proposal for enhancement of coverage** is under consideration of the Government.

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## ANNEXURE

Statement indicating State-Wise number of Persons/families Covered under National Food Security Act, 2013 - As on 29.07.2024

Sl. No.	States/ UTs	Impl. Month	Population in lakh (Census 2011)	Percentage Coverage	Accepted No. of persons under NFSA (in lakh)			Ceiling of AAY HH (in lakh)	Present coverage (In lakh)					Total persons	% of accepted persons
					Rural	Urban	Total		Rural	Urban	Total	AAY			
				No. of families	No. of persons	No. of persons									
1	Andhra Pradesh	Dec-15	493.77	60.96	41.14	54.32	200.20	68.03	268.23	9.09	9.08	23.52	244.70	268.22	100.00%
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Apr-16	13.83	66.31	51.55	62.95	7.09	1.62	8.71	0.38	0.38	1.50	6.90	8.40	96.53%
3	Assam	Dec-15	311.69	84.17	60.35	80.82	225.41	26.49	251.90	7.04	6.92	28.08	223.08	251.17	99.71%
4	Bihar	Mar-14	1038.05	85.12	74.53	83.92	783.74	87.42	871.16	25.01	25.01	125.05	746.11	871.16	100.00%
5	Chattisgarh	Jan-14	255.40	84.25	59.98	78.61	165.16	35.61	200.77	7.19	7.19	20.42	180.35	200.77	100.00%
6	Delhi	Oct-13	167.53	37.69	43.59	43.44	1.58	71.20	72.78	1.57	0.69	2.78	70.00	72.78	100.00%
7	Goa	Dec-15	14.58	42.24	33.02	36.50	2.33	2.99	5.32	0.18	0.12	0.46	4.86	5.32	100.00%
8	Gujarat	Apr-16	603.84	74.64	48.25	63.40	258.78	124.06	382.85	8.13	7.73	35.53	316.07	351.60	91.84%

9	Haryana	Sep-13	253.53	54.61	41.05	49.89	90.28	36.21	126.49	3.03	2.68	11.35	115.14	126.49	100.00%
10	Himachal Pradesh	Oct-13	68.57	56.23	30.99	53.69	34.68	2.13	36.82	1.97	1.82	7.67	20.98	28.64	77.80%
11	Jharkhand	Oct-15	329.66	86.48	60.20	80.16	216.52	47.73	264.25	9.18	8.94	34.76	229.43	264.19	99.98%
12	Karnataka	Jan-14	611.31	76.04	49.36	65.75	285.55	116.38	401.93	12.00	10.97	43.91	358.02	401.93	100.00%
13	Kerala	Nov-16	333.88	52.63	39.50	46.36	91.87	62.93	154.80	5.96	5.96	25.59	129.21	154.80	100.00%
14	Madhya Pradesh	Mar-14	725.98	80.10	62.61	75.27	420.83	125.59	546.42	15.82	14.63	54.93	479.86	534.79	97.87%
15	Maharashtra	Feb-14	1123.73	76.32	45.34	62.31	469.71	230.45	700.17	25.05	25.05	108.01	592.16	700.17	100.00%
16	Manipur	Apr-16	28.56	88.56	85.75	87.74	17.90	7.15	25.06	0.64	0.64	1.82	18.26	20.08	80.15%
17	Meghalaya	Feb-16	29.64	77.79	50.87	72.39	18.43	3.03	21.46	0.70	0.70	2.91	18.54	21.46	100.00%
18	Mizoram	Mar-16	10.91	81.88	48.60	64.74	4.33	2.73	7.06	0.26	0.26	0.64	6.19	6.83	96.67%
19	Nagaland	Jul-16	19.81	79.83	61.98	74.64	11.23	3.56	14.79	0.48	0.48	2.11	11.94	14.05	94.99%
20	Odisha	Nov-15	419.47	82.17	55.77	77.77	287.19	39.02	326.21	12.65	12.54	37.52	288.46	325.98	99.93%
21	Punjab	Dec-13	277.04	54.79	44.83	51.06	94.88	46.57	141.45	1.79	1.79	7.64	133.80	141.45	100.00%
22	Rajasthan	Oct-13	686.21	69.09	53.00	65.08	356.09	90.53	446.62	9.32	6.29	22.29	417.72	440.01	98.52%
23	Sikkim	Jan-16	6.08	75.74	40.36	66.87	3.45	0.61	4.07	0.17	0.17	0.57	3.24	3.81	93.78%

24	Tamil Nadu	Nov-16	721.39	62.55	37.79	50.55	232.62	132.08	364.69	18.65	18.64	65.78	298.34	364.12	99.84%
25	Telangana	Oct-15	352.89	60.96	41.14	54.32	143.08	48.62	191.70	6.49	5.67	15.28	176.33	191.62	99.96%
26	Tripura	Sep-15	36.71	74.75	49.54	68.15	20.26	4.76	25.02	1.13	1.09	4.62	19.81	24.43	97.65%
27	Uttar Pradesh	Jan-16	1995.81	79.56	64.43	76.19	1234.06	286.52	1520.59	40.95	40.90	132.57	1377.26	1509.82	99.29%
28	Uttarakhand	Oct-15	101.17	65.26	52.05	61.22	45.85	16.09	61.94	1.91	1.84	7.92	54.02	61.94	100.00%
29	West Bengal	Jun-15	913.48	74.47	47.55	65.88	463.31	138.53	601.84	19.86	16.42	54.99	546.85	601.84	100.00%
30	A&N	Mar-16	3.80	24.94	1.70	16.65	0.61	0.02	0.63	0.11	0.04	0.14	0.46	0.61	96.21%
31	DNH&DD	Nov-15	5.86	69.93	54.17	60.72	1.70	1.85	3.56	0.08	0.05	0.24	2.45	2.69	75.60%
32	Lakshadweep	Aug-15	0.64	35.30	33.56	34.17	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.18	0.22	99.72%
33	Chandigarh (DBT)	Feb-14	10.55	38.54	47.26	47.01	0.11	4.85	4.96	0.09	0.00	0.01	2.98	2.99	60.29%
34	Puduchery (DBT)	Sep-15	12.44	59.68	46.94	51.00	2.35	3.99	6.34	0.32	0.25	0.82	5.52	6.34	99.92%
35	J&K	Feb-16	122.67	63.93	46.93	59.26	56.87	15.82	72.69	2.76	2.33	10.61	61.80	72.41	99.61%
36	Ladakh	Feb-16	2.74	55.65	41.62	52.47	1.18	0.26	1.44	0.06	0.06	0.29	1.15	1.44	99.99%
Total			12103.22	75.00	50.00	67.21	6249.30	1885.61	8134.91	250.00	237.33	892.37	7162.20	8054.56	99.01%