

(b) International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) brings out a report on Global Hunger Index (GHI) yearly. In the year 2011, IFPRI has calculated the Global Hunger Index (GHI) and analyzed this multidimensional measure of global hunger in its publication released in October, 2011 titled as "GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX; The Challenge of Hunger: Taming price spikes and excessive food price volatility". The GHI Report 2011 however, is not mainly in respect of hunger but focuses rather on the issue of food price spikes and volatility, which has played havoc and caused the global food crises of 2007-08 and 2010-11. In the GHI, 2011, India has been ranked 67th and below Rwanda.

(c) The major limitation of Global Hunger Index is that it is based on past data and does not take into account the current increase in availability and distribution of food which has happened in the case of India between 2009 and 2011. Not only the production in respect of rice and wheat has increased during the last five years, but consequently the procurement as well as distribution of foodgrains have increased manifold. None of this is reflected in any of the constituents of Index. The second limitation of the Index is that it gives a lot of weight to the nutrition status of physiologically vulnerable group, i.e. children and calls it Hunger Index, which is not correct.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The food security scenario in the country has not deteriorated at all in 2011 in comparison to last year. Rather there has been much larger production of rice and wheat, consequently more foodgrains have been procured and huge stocks of foodgrains have been distributed at affordable prices to the vulnerable sections of the population through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

Mandatory hallmarking on metals

†653. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the metals for which Government has made it mandatory to put hallmarks;

(b) by when the hallmarking on gold would be made mandatory;

(c) the number of jewellers throughout the country who have applied for the licence of hallmarking, till now; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the number of licences received and the number of applications pending, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No metal has been notified by the Government for mandatory hallmarking till date.

(b) Hallmarking of gold will be made mandatory only after amendment of Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 which is in process.

(c) 9765 jewellers have applied for hallmarking licence as on 16 November, 2011.

(d) Number of licence granted as on 16 Nov. 2011 is 9678. Number of applications pending for grant of licence is 63 and 24 applications have been closed.

Allocation for APL and BPL categories

654. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received requests from some State Governments including Punjab and Haryana to increase their quota of allocation for above poverty line and below poverty line categories under the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), allocation of food grains is made to all States/Union Territories (UTs), including Punjab and Haryana, @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted number of 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the country. No reduction has been made in the allocation of food grains for BPL and AAY families.

Allocations of food grains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of foodgrain stocks in the Central Pool and past offtake by the States/UTs. Presently, the allocations of food grains range between 15 kg and 35 kg per family per month in different States/UTs.