

(c) whether the modalities for execution of the said project have been finalized, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the project would create additional employment opportunities and lead to the socio-economic development of the region?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India has accorded approval for implementation of the project "Upgradation of the existing facility at outer harbour and creation of new facility at inner harbor for handling iron ore on DBFOT Basis" at Visakhapatnam Port. The Project will have a capacity of 23 million tonnes to cater to 2 lakh Dead Weight Tonnage (DWT) carriers at outer harbour and upto 65000 DWT carriers at inner harbour.

(b) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 845.41 crores and to be financed by the Concessionaire.

(c) It is envisaged to develop this facility in two phases: in Phase I, upgradation of the existing mechanized iron ore handling facility at outer harbor; and in Phase II, creation of a new facility at West Quay-1 berth in inner harbour. The Concessionaire is required to take up Phase-I work at outer harbour immediately after award of concession. The Phase-II facility is envisaged to be taken up after attaining the threshold limit of handling 12.5 million tonnes at outer harbour or 2 million tonnes at inner harbour whichever is earlier. However, there is no bar on the operator to commence the Phase-II facility before reaching the threshold limit.

(d) Since upgradation and operation and maintenance of the facilities is under the scope of PPP operator, it is expected to create new employment opportunities. The augmentation of capacity will also lead to increase in trade and associated spin off benefits. The facility will mitigate dust pollution and also increase operational efficiency as the existing ore handling complex will be upgraded with latest equipment.

Report of Global Hunger Index

*117. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a note of the Global Hunger Index report published recently that about a quarter of the world's hungry i.e. 210 million live in India alone; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the Report on the Global Hunger Index being brought out by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) for the past eight years. The Report ranks countries on the basis of Global Hunger Index (GHI), which is a composite index of three equal weight indicators, viz. (i) undernourishment (proportion of undernourished people as a percentage of population), (ii) child underweight (proportion of children under the age of five who are under weight), and (iii) child mortality (mortality rate of children under the age of five). As per the latest publication released in October 2013, India has been ranked 63rd out of 120 countries. Based on 17.5% undernourished population taken for India, the figure of 210 million hungry people in India has been arrived at, whereas the figure at global level has been indicated at 870 million by IFPRI.

It may be noted that the data on which the index is based is not necessarily updated or comparable across countries. The data regarding underweight children for India, for example, relates to 2005-06 and does not reflect the latest position.

The NSS Consumer Expenditure Surveys, conducted quinquennially by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, provides estimates of household consumer expenditure and its distribution at the National and State levels. Based on these surveys, as indicated in the NSS Report No.547 on the "Perceived Adequacy of Food Consumption in Indian Households" (February, 2013), the percentage of households that have reported getting two square meals a day throughout the year has increased from about 97.4% in 2004-05 to 98.9% in 2009-10 in rural India and from about 99.4% in 2004-05 to 99.6% in urban India.

In order to address the issues relating to hunger, Government has taken a number of steps to ensure food security of the people particularly those below the poverty line. Government has been providing foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through States/Union Territories under the Targeted Public Distribution System and Other Welfare Schemes such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Annapoorna Scheme for senior citizens, Emergency Feeding Programme, etc. Besides, the Government has enacted the National Food Security Act 2013, which seeks to provide 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.

Scheme for affordable houses

*118. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state: