

**Global Hunger Index**

1347. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that according to the Global Hunger Index the level of hunger in India is the same as in 1996 showing that India has lagged behind in improving its Global Hunger Index score despite strong economic growth in the last decade;

(b) whether between 1990 and 1996, India's hunger level reduction was proportionate to its economic growth and after this, there have been no impacts of high economic growth on the level of hunger; and

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that within SAARC countries too, India continues to trail behind Pakistan and Bangladesh on the Global Hunger Index, the reasons for this dismal situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the Report on the Global Hunger Index (GHI) being brought out by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) every year. The Report ranks countries on the basis of the Global Hunger Index, 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 underweight), and (iii) child mortality (mortality rate of children under the age of five).

The Index ranks countries on a 100 point scale, with 0 being the best score ("no hunger") and 100 being the worst. The higher the score, the worse is the food situation of a country. The Reports on the GHI indicate that the composite score of India has consistently improved from 31.2 in 1990 to 26.9 in 1995 and further to 17.8 in 2014. The improvement in GHI score is on account of multiple factors including economic growth and various welfare, food and nutrition specific interventions made by the Central and State Governments from time to time. It may not be appropriate to say that there has been no impact of high economic growth on the level of hunger after 1996. A major issue in the various reports on GHI was the non-availability of updated data particularly on underweight children since the National Family Health Survey-3 conducted in 2005-06. In the GHI Report released in October, 2014, there has been some updation of data indicating significant improvements in the underweight children in India between 2005-06 and 2013-14.

As per the 2014 GHI Report, India has been ranked 55th out of 76 countries. Amongst SAARC countries, India's position is better than Bangladesh and Pakistan (57 each) while it trails behind Nepal (44) and Sri Lanka (39). It may, however, be noted that the data on which the Index is based is not necessarily comparable across the countries.

### **BPL people in Uttar Pradesh**

†1348. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a large number of people are living below the poverty line in Uttar Pradesh and other States and whether they are getting the benefit meant for the people living below the poverty line, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the corrective measures being taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The Planning Commission estimates poverty from the Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. These surveys are normally conducted on quinquennial basis. The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure has been collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. As per the latest estimates of poverty released by the Planning Commission, the number of persons living below poverty line in Uttar Pradesh has been estimated as 598.2 lakh in 2011-12. Comparing two latest estimates of poverty ratio made by the Planning Commission, the percentage of people living below poverty line in Uttar Pradesh has declined from 40.9% in 2004-05 to 29.4% in 2011-12. The number of persons living below poverty line in Uttar Pradesh has reduced by 137.3 lakhs during 2004-05 and 2011-12. The decline in number of poor during this period is the combined effect of economic growth and the poverty alleviation programmes. State-wise details in this regard are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) Government has initiated various measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to reduce poverty in the country through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes such as: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), National Health Mission (NHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Integrated Child Development

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.