

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes
4.	Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan (RGPSA)
5.	Scheme for Central Assistance to the States for developing export infrastructure
6.	Scheme for setting up 6000 Model Schools
7.	National Mission on Food Processing
8.	Tourist Infrastructure

Note: State may decide to continue (or not) with these schemes out of their increased resources resulting from the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

India's position in Global Hunger Index

1677. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is on the top of World's Global Hunger Index;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is on the top of under-nourished children in the world as well; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof together with an action plan formulated to address this issue seriously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report 2015 brought out by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), India ranks 80th out of the 104 countries. Where the country ranked No.1 has the lowest level of hunger among the countries included, while the country ranked No. 104 has the highest hunger level.

(c) No, Sir. According to the data used in the 2015 GHI, India ranks 111th among 129 countries globally on child stunting (low height for their age) and 120th among 129 countries globally on child wasting (low weight for their height). Nevertheless, it needs to be noted that there has been significant improvements in India's score over time. For instance, as per the Rapid Survey on Children (RSOC) 2013-14, commissioned by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD), there is a reduction in underweight children under 5 years of age from 42.5% in National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-3 conducted in 2005-06 to 29.4% in 2013-14, stunting from 48% in NFHS-3 to 38.7% and wasting from 19.8% in NFHS-3 to 15.1% in RSoC 2013-14.

(d) In order to address the issues relating to hunger and malnutrition, Government has taken a number of steps to ensure food and nutritional security of the people particularly women, children and those below the poverty line. The initiatives taken include providing foodgrains at highly subsidized prices under the Targeted Public Distribution System/ National Food Security Act, implementing schemes such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), 'Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)-Sabla', Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) and so on. Besides, the Food and Nutrition Board of the Ministry of WCD, through its 43 regional field units, is engaged in conducting training programmes in nutrition and generating awareness regarding importance of healthy balanced diets especially through the use of locally available foods, mass awareness campaigns and use of electronic and print media.

Special category status to Bihar

†1678. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to confer the Special Category Status to Bihar; and
- (b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Special Category Status for plan assistance has been granted in the past by the National Development Council (NDC) to some States that are characterized by a number of features necessitating special consideration. These feature: include; (i) hilly and difficult terrain (ii) low population density and / or sizeable share of tribal population (iii) strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries (iv) economic and infrastructural backwardness and (v) non-viable nature of state finances. Earlier the request of Bihar for Special Category Status was considered by an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) which submitted its Report on 30th March, 2012. The IMG came to a finding that based on existing NDC criteria the case for Special Category Status for Bihar is not made out. There is no proposal to modify the criteria for grant of Special Category Status to States.

Identification of special category States

1679. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, with the setting up of NITI Aayog in place of Planning Commission, the concept of identifying Special Category States has been given up;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.