

**Supply of high-protein items through PDS**

1714. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is working on supply of protein rich items like eggs, fish, chickens and meat through Public Distribution Systems (PDS) as a part of NITI Aayog Vision Document;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO Inderjit Singh): (a) No Sir, NITI Aayog has not mooted any proposal for inclusion of animal proteins (eggs, fish, chicken and meat) under the Public Distribution System (PDS) nor have received any such proposal from the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a).

**Indicators used in Global Hunger Index**

1715. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of indicators taken into account while arriving at the rank of Global Hunger Index (GHI);

(b) how India fared in each of the indicators and whether indicators are justified;

(c) what are the reasons that among BRICS nations, India is performing the worst and is even behind every South Asian country as far as GHI is concerned; and

(d) how Ministry looks at it and what remedial measures it is going to take to improve India's ranking next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO Inderjit Singh): (a) The methodology cited in the Global Hunger Index, 2019, is based on the following four indicators: the percentage of population that is undernourished, percentage of children under five years old who suffer from wasting, percentage of children under five years old who suffer from stunting and child mortality.

(b) As far as data used in computation of above mentioned indicators are concerned, the last available National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) conducted in year 2015- 16, provides the data for two of the indicators for children less than 5 years used in the Index *i.e.* prevalence of stunting and prevalence of wasting. Child mortality data was considered from SRS, 2018. Moreover, for calculating GHI index, one-third of the weightage of the indicators is on child undernutrition and not on hunger *per se*.

(c) and (d) It may be informed that, as per the latest released Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS 2016-18) conducted by MoHFW/UNICEF the prevalence of under-nutrition has reduced as follows:

- Lower prevalence of stunting from 38.4% (NFHS 4), to 34.7% (CNNS)
- Lower prevalence of wasting from 21.0% (NFHS 4), to 17.3% (CNNS)
- Lower prevalence of underweight from 35.7% (NFHS 4), to 33.4% (CNNS)

The indicator-wise performance of India from 2004 to 2018 is depicted in the table below:—

Year	Proportion of undernourishment			Prevalence of wasting			Prevalence of stunting			Under 5 mortality		
	04-06	09-11	16-18	04-06	09-11	16-18	04-06	09-11	16-18	04-06	09-11	16-18
Score	22.2	17.5	14.5	20	16.5	20.8	47.8	42	37.9	7.5	5.8	3.9

Therefore, based on CNNS (2016-18) and SRS (2018) data, which is more recent and using similar methodology as mentioned in the GHI Report, India's new rank will be 91 instead of 102 for India.

The Government of India (Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in convergence with other Ministries/Departments) is committed towards tackling the challenges of malnutrition. Some of the recent initiatives of various Ministries/ Departments include inter alia: Swasthaya Bharat Mission, Anaemia Mukta Bharat, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, intensified Home Based New Born Care etc..