

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2548

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2000

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its latest annual report come out with appreciation for the human rights guaranteed to women and children;
- (b) if so, the main observations and suggestions made in the UNDP report giving comparative figures with respect to India and the developed countries; and
- (c) the time by which India is likely to be classified amongst the developed countries as per the UNDP?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) and (b): The Human Development Report 2000 of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is a published document, is centered on the theme of human rights and human development which are stated to be inextricably linked to each other. Some extracts from the 'overview' of the report are given in the attached statement (Annexure). The report analyses the state of human development (as defined / viewed in the report) in the world and makes references to region and country-specific situations, including to some Indian conditions and contexts. The report places India at the rank of 108 among 143 countries in the GDI ranking, 1998, i.e., in the gender-related development index. The report has defined GDI as measuring the average achievements in a country in the same three basic dimensions (namely, a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living) and using the same three variables (namely, life expectancy at birth, educational attainment adult literacy and the combined gross primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment ratio and Gross Domestic Product per capita) as the Human Development Index does; but takes into account inequality in achievement between women and men. GDI is simply the Human Development Index discounted, or adjusted downwards, for gender inequality.

(c) No time frame can be envisaged in this regard.

**ANNEXURE**

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question D. No.7975 for 8.8.2000

1. Human rights and human development share a common vision and a common purpose - to secure the freedom, well-being and dignity of all people everywhere. To secure:

Â§ Freedom from discrimination - by gender, race, ethnicity, national origin or religion. Â§ Freedom from want - to enjoy a decent standard of living. Â§ Freedom to develop and realize one's human potential. Â§ Freedom from fear - of threats to personal security, from torture, arbitrary arrest and other violent acts. Â§ Freedom from injustice and violations of the rule of law. Â§ Freedom of thought and speech and to participate in decision-making and form associations. Â§ Freedom for decent work - without exploitation.

2. In the context of human rights for women, specific mention has been made of the following in the 'overview' :

Â§ More than three-quarters of the world's countries

(numbering 165, which includes India) have ratified CEDAW: the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Â§ National Institutions and legal standards for affirmative action have emerged in Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and the United States, where ethnic minorities and indigenous and tribal peoples form a significant part of the population.

Â§ Public interest litigation cases in education and environment in such countries as India have been important in securing people's economic and social rights.

3. The 20th century's advances in human rights and human development were unprecedented - but there is a long unfinished agenda. Bold new approaches are needed to achieve universal realization of human rights in the 21st century - adapted to the opportunities and realities of the era of globalization, to its new global actors and to its new global rules.

Â§ Every country needs to strengthen its social arrangements for securing human freedoms - with norms, institutions, legal

frameworks and an enabling economic environment. Legislation alone is not enough.

Â§ The fulfillment of all human rights requires democracy that is inclusive - protecting the rights of minorities, providing separation of powers and ensuring public accountability. Elections alone are not enough.

Â§ Poverty eradication is not only a development goal - it is a central challenge for human rights in the 21st century.

Â§ Human rights in an integrated world require global justice. The state-centred model of accountability must be extended to the obligation of non-state actors and to the states' obligations beyond national borders.

Â§ Information and statistics are a powerful tool for creating a culture of accountability and for realizing human rights. Activists, lawyers, statisticians and development specialists need to work together with communities. The goal: to generate information and evidence that can break down barriers of disbelief and mobilize changes in policy and behaviour.

Â§ Achieving all rights for all people in all countries in the 21st century will require action and commitment from the major groups in every society NGOs, media and businesses, local as well as national government, parliamentarians and other opinion leaders.

Â§ Human rights and human development cannot be realized universally without stronger international action, especially to support disadvantaged people and countries and to offset growing global inequalities and marginalization.