

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2171

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

BASIC AMENITIES TO PEOPLE

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite economic growth, the country is still way behind in providing basic amenities to its citizens as reported in the media;
- (b) if so, whether South Asian Nations including India would not be able to eradicate poverty and ensure minimum education for all by 2015;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the target date fixed by the Government for eradication of poverty from the country; and
- (e) the achievement made so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a): The objective of the Planning process in India has been to accelerate the economic growth rate and to provide better access to basic amenities to the people. The country has achieved a growth rate of more than 9% in recent years and also registered an impressive improvement in providing basic amenities such as drinking water and sanitation. Proportion of rural households with sustainable access to improved drinking water sources has increased from 55.5 percent in 1991 to 79.6 percent by 2007-08. Similarly for urban areas, the proportion of households with sustainable access to improved drinking water sources increased from 81.4 percent in 1991 to 95 percent by 2007-08.

(b) to (e): Alleviation of poverty in the country is one of the monitorable targets of the Eleventh Five Year Plan and it aims at reduction in the Head-Count Ratio of Consumption Poverty by 10 percentage points during the Plan period (2007-12). One of the Millennium Development Goals relating to India is to reduce the proportion of people below poverty line from nearly 37.5 percent in 1990 to about 18.6 percent by 2015. As a result of various measures taken, the incidence of poverty declined from 36 percent in 1993-94 to 27.5 percent in 2004-05. The trend rate of decline is 0.8 percent during 1993-94 to 2004-05. The rate of decline based on thin sample estimates of consumer expenditure for the year 2005-06 is 1.4 percent. If the improvement in the rate of decline in the poverty as observed during 2004-05 to 2005-06 is maintained in the subsequent years or further improved, it is expected that India will be able to achieve the 2015 target.

The country is expected to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of providing universal primary education as the net enrolment ratio in primary education is likely to cross the 100 percent mark for both boys and girls before 2015. Towards achieving 100 percent Youth Literacy by 2015, another target for MDG 2, India is well on track going by the rate of decline observed during 1991-2001. By the trend of literacy of 15-24 year old population, India is likely to attain 100 percent youth literacy by the year 2013-14.