

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4793

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010

LIFE EXPECTANCY AND HEALTH FACILITIES

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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Human Development Index, 2009 pointed out gaps in terms of life expectancy and health facilities in India;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the average life span of people in India is much less than the average life span of people in the world; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the health facility?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): According to Human Development Report (HDR) brought out by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for the year 2009, the Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure for monitoring long-term progress in the average level of Human Development in three basic dimensions: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. These basic dimensions are measured by the life expectancy at birth; adult literacy and combined gross enrolment in education; and Gross Domestic Product(GDP) per capita in purchasing power parity US dollars (PPP US\$). India's Progress on these indicators (including life expectancy) is given at Annexure.

(c): The average global life expectancy at birth reported in HDR 2009 is 67.5 years whereas average life expectancy at birth for India is 63.4 years. As per the official estimates published by the Office of the Registrar General, India, Ministry of Home Affairs, the life expectancy at birth in India in 2002-06 with 2004 as mid year was 63.5 years.

(d): To improve primary health care system and to provide medical facilities to citizens, the Government has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in the country, a flagship programme of the Government, with special focus on 18 states which includes 8 erstwhile Empowered Action Group States (Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Orissa and Rajasthan), 8 North-East States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. The main aim of NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially, to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. NRHM seeks to strengthen the Public Health delivery services at all levels. The interventions / initiatives launched under the NRHM aim to reduce mortality and morbidity so that the life expectancy of the people will improve.