

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3948

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010

STANDARD OF LIVING

Mahto Shri Baidyanath Prasad; Rama Devi Smt.

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the standard of living of the people has been deteriorating in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the ranking of the country in the world in terms of standard of living; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the ranking in the world?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): No sir. As per the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2009 (HDR 2009), India ranked 134 out of 182 countries in the world with Human Development Index (HDI) 0.612 for the year 2007. The HDI is based on three indicators namely, GDP per capita (PPP US \$), life expectancy at birth, and education as measured by adult literacy rate and gross enrolment ratio (combined for primary, secondary and tertiary education). The value of HDI has gradually increased from 0.427 in 1980 to 0.556 in 2000 and further increased to 0.612 in 2007. The selected socio-economic indicators also reflect improvement in the standard of living of the people over the years. The poverty ratio has declined from 36% in 1993-94 to 27.5% in 2004-05. The per capita income at constant prices has increased from Rs 11535 in 1980-81 to Rs 31821 in 2008-09. As per the Economic Survey 2009-10, the death rate per thousand has decreased from 12.5 in 1980-81 to 7.4 in 2008-09. The life expectancy at birth has increased from 50.4 years in 1980-81 to 63.5 years in 2006-07. The literacy rate has increased from 43.6% in 1980-81 to 67.6% in 2005-06.

(d): The Economic Survey 2009-10, has brought out that there has been a consistent increase in the expenditure on social services including rural development by the Central Government, which is estimated as 19.46 (as a percent of total expenditure) in 2009-10 (BE) as against 10.46% in 2003-04. The Government has taken various measures to improve the socio-economic development in the country through direct interventions by implementing programmes such as: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Total Sanitation Campaign etc.