

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4096
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010
MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index released by UK based Oxford, Poverty and Human Developments Initiative (OPHI) and the United National Developments Programme (UNDP) has compared Indian States with poorest countries in the world;
- (b) if so, whether some States in India have been compared with Somalia where 3000,000 people died in famine and Sierra Leone the world's third worst performer as reported in the media;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (d) the improvement made by India in its Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index as compared to its last Five Year Plan; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to improve its rank in eradicating poverty in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Oxford University and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have launched a new index to measure poverty named Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) based on a research study. This new poverty index is to be featured in the forthcoming 20th anniversary edition of the UNDP Human Development Report which will be released later this year in October 2010. In respect of Indian States, there is wide inter-State variation in MPI ranking. The Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) study mentions that 421 million people in 8 States in India namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, were multi dimensionally poor which is slightly more than 410 million multi dimensionally poor people in 26 poorest African countries including Somalia and Sierra Leone.

(c): The new index, accompanied by a disclaimer stating that such studies, though sponsored by UNDP, do not represent its official views or policies and that the Human Development Reports are known for their often controversial analyses of critical issues. Therefore, the contents of the OPHI study need to be read with due regard to the above. The MPI has used parameters representing deprivations suffered by the poor broadly under health, education and standard of living irrespective of income or consumption expenditure levels. This is not comparable with the official poverty estimates of the India. The MPI has used data from three different sources i.e. Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS), and the World Health Survey (WHS). The research study itself mentions that three sources of data have been used on account of non-availability of data from single source for all the countries. Further, even the single source data does not pertain to the same year and results have been arrived at after making necessary adjustments.

(d) & (e): Since this is a new index to be launched soon, only the subsequent indices can show the impact of measures initiated as part of the strategy for inclusive growth, thereby also providing for a more conclusive comparative analysis in respect of individual States and the country as a whole. For alleviation of poverty in the country, the Government has already taken various measures through direct interventions by implementing programmes such as: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarnajayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), National Social Assurance Programme (NSAP), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) etc.