

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4622
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) makes any ranking of various countries on the count of Human Development Index;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the findings of the UNDP about India during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the UNDP has reported any decline in this regard in respect of our country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the Human Development Index 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): Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d): The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provides Human Development Index(HDI) rankings of various countries in its Human Development Report (HDR) published annually. HDI is a composite index having three components:(i) standard of living as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in purchasing power parity (PPP)(ii) life expectancy at birth and(iii) access to knowledge as measured by the adult literacy rate and the combined gross enrolment ratio in education. Each of these three dimensions carries equal weight. India has been placed at 126th, 128th, and 134th rank in the HDR-2006, HDR-2007/08 and HDR-2009 respectively. The HDR 2006 and HDR 2007/08 include the data for 177 UN member States each and HDR 2009 includes the data for 192 UN member States and is based on data up to 2007.

India has registered a consistent improvement in HDI value which was 0.427 in 1980 which improved to 0.596 in the year 2005, to 0.604 in the year 2006 and to 0.612 in 2007. The HDR 2009 also reveals that average annual growth rate in HDI value in respect of India has been 1.36 percent during the period 2000-07 which is significant as compared to many other developing countries.

The Government strategy of strengthening social infrastructure has a positive impact in improving the living conditions of the people. The implementation of flagship programmes such as National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) and poverty alleviation by providing wage and self employment, providing safe drinking water and effective implementation of sanitation campaign etc. are expected to further improve India's ranking in HDI.