

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1479

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the Human Development Report (HDR) 2011 of the UNDP affirming that the high economic growth achieved by India has not translated into a better quality of life for the vast majority of its citizens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the report has also presented India for worse than its two neighbours on the parameters of educating the future generation, gender equality, etc.;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons as reported by the UNDP; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in view of the said UNDP (HRD) report?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (e): The Human Development Report (HDR) - 2011 titled 'Sustainability and Equity: A better future for all', released recently by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) places India at 134th rank among 187 countries in Human Development Index. The HDI is a composite index that combines three dimensions of human development namely long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent living standard and thus is a measure of quality of life. Higher value of HDI implies higher level of human development and better quality of life. The UNDP HDR 2011 reveals that India has registered a consistent improvement in HDI value which increased from 0.410 in 1990 to 0.461 in 2000 and further to 0.547 in 2011. As recorded in the HDR 2011, the HDI growth estimated at 1.56% on average per year has been the fastest for India during the period 2000-2011 compared to that in the 1990s, which registered an annual average HDI growth of 1.38% during 1990-2000.

The HDR has published the values of some component indicators as well as the Gender Inequality Index (GII) for specific countries. India's position in terms of GI and education parameters vis a vis its neighbouring countries as reported in the HDR-2011 is given in a statement in the Annexure. The data on different component indices and specific parameters are based on various surveys conducted by national and international agencies following different methodology and hence not strictly comparable across countries. However, India's achievement in overall quality of life indicated by both HDI and Non Economic HDI, Inequality Adjusted Education Index etc is better compared to its neighbouring countries.

The Government's strategy of achieving high growth rate, generating more employment opportunities and strengthening of social infrastructure such as public health and education through implementation of flagship programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) and poverty alleviation by providing wage and self employment, safe drinking water and total sanitation campaign, etc. have impacted the human wellbeing positively and are expected to improve India's HDI ranking further in future.