

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1487  
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011  
UNDP ASSESSMENT ON INDIA'S SOCIAL PROGRESS  
Kishor Shri Kamal

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

- (a) whether the United Nations Development Programme has carried out an assessment in India regarding the progress made in health, education and living standard in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the category in which India have been placed in the list; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government on the outcome of the said assessment?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been computing and releasing country specific Human Development Index (HDI) every year since the year 1990. The HDI is a composite index that combines three dimensions of human development namely long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent living standard. The countries are ranked on the basis of their HDI. The HDI ranks along with the corresponding HDI values for all those countries for which the index is computed are published annually by UNDP in its Human Development Report.

The Human Development Report (HDR) - 2011 titled 'Sustainability and Equity: A better future for all', places India at 134th rank among 187 countries in Human Development Index. With a HDI value of 0.547 for the year 2011, India has been placed in the 'Medium Human Development' categories. 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 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 Sikhsha 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.