

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:298

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011

UN REPORT ON POVERTY

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has been claimed in a recent report of the United Nations Federation on `Sustainability and Equity: A better future for all'. 41.6% of the Indian population is leading their lives in less than Rs.49/-a day;
- (c) whether it has also been stated in the report that majority of poor people of the world live in India;
- (d) whether the rank of India in human development index among 169 countries has come down to 134 from 119;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether the global assets of India has increased by 14% at present; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for even economic growth of the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The Human Development Report (HDR)-2011 titled `Sustainability and Equity: A better future for all', released recently by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has recorded that corresponding to the reference year 2005, 41.6% of the Indian population lived below the International Poverty Line of \$1.25 a day.

The Planning Commission as the nodal agency in the Government to estimate poverty computes the Head Count Poverty Ratio once in every five years approximately on the basis of the data on Monthly Per capita consumption Expenditure (MPCE) obtained from Large Sample Survey on Household Consumption Expenditure conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). As per the latest estimates, the Head Count Poverty Ratio for the year 2004-05, at all India level is 37.2%.

(e) & (f): The UNDP HDR places India at 134th rank among 187 countries in Human Development Index (HDI) 2011 as against a rank of 119 in 2010 among 169 countries. The Human Development Reports released by the UNDP since 1990 annually has been publishing Human Development Index(HDI) which ranks the countries by the level of their human development. The HDI is based on three indicators, namely Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita (in Purchasing Power Parity in US \$), life expectancy at birth and education as measured by adult literacy rate and gross enrolment ratio (combined for primary, secondary and tertiary education). It has been clarified in the report that International Data Agencies continuously improve their data series and update the historical data; therefore, year to year changes in the HDI values and rankings across editions of the Human Development Report often reflect changes. Hence, the HDI value for 2010 has since been changed from 0.519 to 0.542. The HDR 2011 reveals that India has registered a consistent improvement in HDI value which increased from 0.535 in 2009 to 0.542 in 2010 and further to 0.547 in 2011.

The Government 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. are expected to improve India's HDI ranking in future.

(g) & (h): The data on global assets of India is not compiled and maintained in the Planning Commission.