

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:247  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012  
IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
Tomar Shri Narendra Singh

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

(a) whether there has been no improvement in human development despite officials claims regarding economic development in the country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): No Madam. There has been a significant improvement in the human development in the country over the years as revealed by various indicators of the human development. As per the Census 2011, the overall literacy rate in the country has increased from 64.83 in 2001 to 74.04 in 2011. The male-female gap in the literacy rate has gone down to 16.68 in 2011 in comparison to 21.59 in 2001. The percentage of population below poverty line has also declined from 45.3% in 1993-94 to 37.2% in 2004-05. The Infant Mortality Rate has come down from 80 per thousand live births in 1990 to 50 per thousand in 2009. The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) was 424 per lakh live births in 1992-93 and has come down to 212 per lakh in 2007-09. Similarly the percentage of people using improved source of drinking water has increased from 68 % in 1993 to 90.3% in 2008-09 and the percentage of households without sanitation facilities has declined from 70% in 1993 to 51% in 2008.

Moreover, the Human Development Report 2011 of United Nations Development Programme also reveals that India has registered a consistent improvement in Human Development Index value which increased from 0.410 in 1990 to 0.461 in 2000 and further to 0.547 in 2011.