

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:833  
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015  
DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSITY INDEX  
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**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of District Development and Diversity Index report for India and major States prepared by the US-India Policy Institute (USIP) on development policy aimed at increasing socio- economic inclusion and participatory decision making at grassroots level;
- (b) if so, the details and key findings thereof along with the other important aspects of the study and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to address these issues?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE  
(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c):The Washington DC based "US-India Policy Institute (USIPI)" has released the "District Development and Diversity Index (DDDIX) Report for India and Major States" in January 2015. The Report aims at assessing the levels of development and equity of access to development for various districts of the country with an objective of improving socio-economic inclusion and participatory decision making process at the grassroots level. The Report has computed a Human Development Index (HDI) in the districts of India based on development parameters viz. economic, material wellbeing, education and health. A major objective of the study is to capture the progress in human development across various socio-religious communities. Dividing Indian states into 5 groups based on developmental levels, the study has recommended improving public services and strengthening welfare policies. It has also suggested that strategies could be made by the State Governments and district level bureaucracy taking cognizance of DDDIX with active involvement of academics, civil society networks and community groups.

Over the years there has been substantial improvement in various indicators of human development for India. The emphasis of the Government is on "SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas" which symbolizes inclusive development. A number of programmes are being implemented which aim at poverty reduction and inclusive growth. These include Prime Minister's Jan-DhanYojana (PMJDY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Health Mission (NHM), SarvaSikhshaAbhiyaan (SSA), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Swachha Bharat Abhiyan, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/ National Food Security Act (NFSA), etc. There are many other initiatives which are directly taken by the State Governments keeping in view the State and district-specific requirements. These interventions are expected to yield further improvements in various socio-economic indicators over time leading to overall inclusive development of the country.