

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:159
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
UNDP REPORT
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA;SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its report on Human Development Index 2003 has put India at 127 position among 175 countries in the world ;
- (b) if so, whether India`s position was 124 in 2002;
- (c) if so, the reasons for deterioration in India`s position;
- (d) whether the Government have examined the specific factors brought out in the UNDP report;
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (f) the extent to which the Government agrees with the report; and
- (g) the States in the country which have done well in the development of Human Index as per the report ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 159 by SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL AND SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA FOR ANSWER ON 30.07.2003 REGARDING UNDP REPORT

(a), (b) & (c) : Yes, Sir. As per the Human Development Report, 2003 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the value of India's Human Development Index (HDI) has consistently improved over the years. HDI value of India has increased from 0.416 in 1975 to 0.443 in 1980, 0.519 in 1990, 0.553 in 1995 and 0.590 in 2001. However, as per the relative ranking on the basis of HDI value, India ranks 127 in HDR 2003 as compared to 124 in HDR 2002. This is due to inclusion of two new countries in the ranking of this year's report and an increase in the value of HDI for Botswana vis-a-vis India. The two new countries are Bosnia and Herzegovina and Occupied Palestinian Territories which have better ranking than India at 66 and 98 respectively. While the value of India's health indicator is better than Botswana, the values of education and GDP Indices have been stated to be better in case of Botswana as compared to India.

(d), (e) & (f) : The UNDP's HDR 2003 has commended India for making serious efforts towards achieving economic growth and reduction of poverty in the country which would contribute significantly, in turn, to achieve the first Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in the world by 2015.

There is a wide acceptance of the Human Development Framework adopted by the UNDP in its various reports as well as the ranking of countries for purposes of international comparisons. However, in the Indian context, the focus is to achieve higher levels of human development at the national level and at the State level and to reduce inter regional disparities in levels of attainment. The strategy to achieve these goals has been suitably incorporated in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(g): The UNDP's HDRs do not rank the various States of India. They only rank the various countries of the world as per the Human Development Index.