

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2612
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003
INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to United Nations Development Programmes Human Development Report, India have largest number of hungry people;
- (b) if so, whether the said report has expressed grave concern over disparity in income levels, rising unemployment and low life expectancy in India; and
- (c) if so, the reactions of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL)

- (a): Yes Sir, the latest Human Development Report for 2003, published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicates that 'India is home to the largest number of hungry people, 233 million.'
- (b): The report further indicates that China and India, together containing a third of world's population, have enjoyed tremendous economic growth over the past decade. Though both countries achieved rapid sustained economic growth, their rates of progress have been quite different. There are wide regional variations in India. In 1992-97 per capita economic growth ranged from -0.2 percent in Bihar to 7.8 percent in Gujarat. Similar variations appear in other human development indicators, such as those for education and health.
- (c): As per our official estimates of poverty published by the Planning Commission, the number of people living below poverty line decreased from 320.3 million in 1993-94 to 263.3 million in 1999-2000. Over the years the Indian Government has undertaken several employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes. The ongoing economic reforms have also a human face and strong commitment for development of human resources and eradication of poverty.