

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:341  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT  
Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Kurup Adv. Suresh

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

- (a) whether Human Development Report 2004 has given India 127th rank out of 177;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the report has indicated that the performance in education is woefully inadequate;
- (d) if so, the reasons for not showing satisfactory performance in the education sector in the country;
- (e) the rank of India in the Human Development Report 2002 and 2003;
- (f) whether the Government has studied the Report; and
- (g) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observation made in the Report with regard to education?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 341 FOR 18.08.2004 REGARDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT BY SHRI SURESH KURUP AND SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY.

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Human Development Report (HDR), 2004 prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ranks India at 127 out of 177 countries in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI). With this ranking India is grouped among the medium human development countries. HDI is a composite index which measures the average achievement in a country in three basic dimensions of human development namely a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. The value of India's HDI calculated and published in the various HDRs being brought out by the UNDP since 1990 has, however, shown sustained improvement over the years.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. The Report does not make any such observations. The value of education index which is a composite index of adult literacy and gross enrolment ratio has shown sustained improvement for India over the years.

(e) India ranked at the same position at 127 out of 175 countries in the HDR for 2003. However, HDR for 2002 ranked India at 124 out of 173 countries.

(f) & (g) The HDR for 2004 has not made any specific observations with regard to education. This report has estimated a composite HDI value of 0.595. This value in turn is based on the life expectancy index value of 0.64, education index of 0.59 and GDP index of 0.55. The value of education index has witnessed sustained improvement over the years. The government is making efforts inter-alia, to expand the reach of Primary Education Programmes.