

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:12  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005  
INDIA'S RANKING ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX  
Chakraborty Shri Swadesh

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

- (a) whether India ranked 127th in 2005 on the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI);
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide the basic aspects of human development in the country as measured by the United Nations HDI;
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 12 FOR ANSWER ON 23.11.2005 BY SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY REGARDING INDIA'S RANKING ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Human Development Report (HDR), 2005, prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) ranks India at 127 out of 177 countries in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI). These are independent estimates of UNDP using their own norms.

(c) to (e): The HDI is a summary measure of human development. It measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development:

(i) A long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth.

(ii) Knowledge, as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-thirds weight) and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (with one-third weight).

(iii) A decent standard of living, as measured by GDP per capita (PPP US\$).

The Government recognizes the importance of human development in development planning and in view of this the Tenth Plan has laid down specific monitorable targets for a few key indicators of human development along with the target for growth rate of GDP. These targets are considered as central to attainment of the objectives of Tenth Plan. The Government, both in the Centre and in the States have initiated a number of programmes to improve health and educational status of the people, as also to provide opportunities for employment and enhanced incomes. In order to improve literacy and universal enrolment, investment in education has been increased substantially both for the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and for universal coverage under the mid-day meal scheme. Similarly, in the health sector, there has been step up in investment with a new thrust on rural health (The National Rural Health Mission). In order to improve the level of living of the people, economic growth with social justice is envisaged in the planning process. The emphasis is on agriculture development and on labour-intensive sectors, which would generate greater employment in the growth process. In addition, there are specially targeted anti-poverty programmes for the poor and disadvantaged groups. Improving delivery and governance are also receiving attention of the Government. These initiatives are expected to improve the various indicators used in the UN Human Development Index to provide the basic aspects of human development in the country.