

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2810
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX
Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether study carried out by the Institute of Human Development shows a difference of 32 percent between the Human Development Indices at the National level and those of Scheduled Tribes;
- (b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereon; (
- (c) The reasons for the large differences between development indices, and
- (d) The measures proposed to bring down this difference?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a): Yes, Sir. A study carried out by the Institute for Human Development(IHD), a private research institute, has observed that there is a difference between the Human Development Index(HDI) of the general population at the National level as pointed out in the National Human Development Report, 2001 of the Planning Commission and that of the Scheduled Tribes for the year 1991 as calculated by the IHD with the HDI for Scheduled Tribes(STs) being shown as 32 per cent lower.

(b): While the HDI for the entire population is based on the National Human Development Report (NHDR) prepared by the Planning Commission in 2002, that of the tribals has been estimated by the IHD. The methodology of the former has been spelt out in the National Human Development Report, 2001, the details of calculations for the HDI of the tribals are not clear from the paper of IHD. It is a study carried out by a non-

government institute and is not strictly comparable with the NHDR. It is well known that the HDI is a composite index representing the three dimensions of human development viz., economic, educational and health. A number of studies have suggested that the attainments of tribals in respect of these three dimensions are lower than that of the population in general. This is clear from the indicators on consumption expenditure by NSSO, education related indicators from Census and health related indicators from National Family Health Surveys.

(c) & (d): The reasons for the low HDI of the STs and the steps that need to be taken to address this, have been analyzed in detail in the draft National Tribal Policy brought out by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.