

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:207

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006

UNDP REPORT

Chandrappan Shri C.K.;McLeod Smt. Ingrid

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been placed at 126th position on Human Development Index among 177 countries as per the findings of the UNDP's Human Development Report 2006 as reported in the Times of India dated November 10, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the said report has mentioned the areas of concern like health care, water distribution and sanitation in particular; and

(e) if so, the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard including plan to increase allocation for these sectors?

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 REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.207 REGARDING UNDP REPORT BY MS. INGRID MCLEOD AND SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN, DUE FOR ANSWER ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2006

(a)&(b): According to the Human Development Report 2006 - 'Beyond Scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crises', released by the UNDP, India is placed at 126th position on Human Development Index (HDI) amongst 177 countries. The value of India's HDI in 2004 was 0.611 on a scale of 0 to 1 and India is placed in the 'Medium Human Development' category of countries.

(c): The HDIs reported by UNDP are independent estimates of UNDP, using their own methodology, norms and dataset.

(d): Yes, Sir. The Report mentions areas of concern like health care, water distribution and sanitation at the global level. The Report highlights the crucial need to reduce the health costs of the low income groups by addressing the vast deficits in water and sanitation. The Report explains the 'water-sanitation-hygiene benefits loop', wherein provision of clean water and sanitation, with emphasis on personal hygiene, form the foundation for any strategy to enhance public health. Regarding water distribution, the Report mentions the need to reduce inequalities, which exist between the rural and urban areas, between various ethnic groups and regions. The deep disparities in distribution of water within and across countries arise due to the interaction of price and locational disadvantages whereby the poor people pay more than the rich.

(e): The Government has been implementing several programmes in order to extend access to essential public services such as health, clean drinking water, sanitation, etc. for improving the standard of living of people, in general, and for people living below the poverty line, in particular. Important among these are National Rural Health Mission, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Swajal Dhara, Total Sanitation Campaign for improving basic services and infrastructure. The Plan allocations for these sectors have also been raised considerably during the last few years. The allocations for the Eleventh Plan have not been finalised.