

Revision of growth rate target

2109. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not possible to achieve nine per cent economic growth during the Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to revise the growth target for the Twelfth Five Year Plan to 8-8.5 per cent;

(d) whether the approach paper for the Twelfth Plan has set a target of nine per cent average annual growth for the period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) (a) to (e) The Approach Paper to the Twelfth Five Year Plan as approved by the National Development Council (NDC) had projected that the economy could target an average annual growth rate of 9 per cent during the 12th Plan period (2012-17). However, subsequent to the approval of the Approach Paper by NDC, there have been important developments in the global economic environment and their impact on the domestic economy is reflected in the growth rate of 6.5 per cent in 2011-12 with the growth rate for the last quarter of 2011-12 being only 5.3 per cent. The global economic situation continues to be uncertain. It will therefore be difficult to stay with the earlier target of 9 per cent average annual GDP growth rate during Twelfth Plan period. However, the Planning Commission will take a view on what is feasible in terms of restoring the economy to rapid growth. The revised target will be submitted to NDC in its normal course later this year.

India'S position in HDI

2110. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of Human Development Report (HDR 2009), the Human Development Index (HDI) for India in 2007 was ranked 134 out of 182 countries;

(b) India's position in 2005 and 2006;

(c) whether there has been any improvement in the above rank during 2006 to 2011; and

(d) the parameter of measuring HDI and whether it is according to United Nations standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Human Development Report (HDR) 2009 of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India was placed at 134th position out of 182 countries.

(b) and (c) According to HDR 2005, India's position was 127 out of 177 countries and HDR 2006 placed India at 126th position out of 177 countries. It has been clarified in the reports that International Data Agencies continuously improve their data series and update the historical data. Therefore, year to year changes in the Human Development Index (HDI) values and rankings across editions of the HDR are not strictly comparable. The HDR 2011 indicates that India's HDI position improved by one rank during the period 2006-2011. However, in terms of HDI value India registered a significant improvement from 0.512 in 2006 to 0.547 in 2011. In fact, India has registered highest ever average annual HDI growth rate of 1.66 percent during the decade 2000-2010.

(d) The UNDP uses HDI as its summary measure of human development. It is a composite index measuring the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development, a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. As per the latest methodology adopted by UNDP, health is measured by life expectancy at birth. Achievement in knowledge is indicated by mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling. The standard of living is indicated by purchasing-power-adjusted per-capita Gross National Income (GNI).

Mobile phone to BPL individual

2111. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to provide mobile phone to every Below Poverty Line (BPL) individual as per the media report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;