Status of India in HDI

- 1931. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:
- (a) the status of India on the Human Development Index (HDI) at UN Human Development current Report;
 - (b) whether it is at the lowest ebb;
 - (c) if so, the details with reasons therefor;
 - (d) the action plan to improve its performance viz-a-viz others;
- (e) whether India has failed in the Gender Inequality Index especially with reference to our neighbours; and

(f) if so, the action plan to address this issue?

164 Written Answers to

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) to (d) As per the Human Development Report (HDR) 2011 of United Nations Development Programme, India has been placed at 134th position out of 187 countries with a Human Development Index (HDI) value of 0.547. It has been clarified in the report that International Data Agencies continuously improve their data series and update the historical data. Therefore, year to year changes in the HDI values and rankings across editions of the HDR are not strictly comparable. India has registered a consistent improvement in HDI value which increased from 0.410 in 1990 to 0.461 in 2000 and further to 0.547 in 2011. In fact, India has registered highest ever average annual HDI growth rate of 1.66 per cent during the decade 2000-2010.

The Government's strategy of achieving high growth rate by generating more employment opportunities and strengthening social infrastructure such as public health and education through implementation of flagship programmes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyaan (SSA), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, and poverty alleviation by providing wage and self-employment, safe drinking water, total sanitation campaign, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) etc. have impacted the human well-being positively and are expected to further improve India's HDI.

(e) and (f) The Gender Inequality Index (GII) reflects women's disadvantage in three dimensions viz. reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market. According to HDR 2011, India is ranked at 129th position out of 146 countries with a GII value of 0.617, whereas HDR 2010 ranked India at 122nd position out of 138 countries with a GII value of 0.748. The decline in the GII value clearly shows that over the years, gender inequality has been reducing in India. However, Gender Inequality Index cannot be considered as a correct measure of discrimination against women in India because of the various social and cultural aspects prevalent in the country. A comparative analysis of India's GII value with some of the neighbouring countries as per HDR 2010 and HDR 2011 is given in the table below.

GII Rank 2011	Countries	GII Value	
		HDR 2010	HDR 2011
35	China	0.405	0.209
52	Maldives	0.533	0.320
129	India	0.748	0.617
98	Bhutan	-	0.495
115	Pakistan	0.721	0.573
12	Bangladesh	0.734	0.550
96	Myanmar	-	0.492
113	Nepal	0.716	0.558
141	Afghanistan	0.797	0.707

It is now universally accepted that the different dimensions of human development-food, education, and health-play important roles in shaping personal well-being. India's Five Year Plans are firmly set within the human development paradigm. The initiatives taken in the Eleventh Plan period for faster and inclusive growth have resulted in substantial progress towards achieving higher level of human development. The Right to Education (RTE) Act, which became operational from 1st April, 2010, guarantees the provision of free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 years of age in India. Besides envisaging universalization of secondary education by 2017 is a major priority in the Twelfth Plan. The scheme of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and the Scheme of Model schools have already been launched in the Eleventh Plan to improve enrollment and quality in secondary education. Further, to reduce maternal and infant mortality, institutional deliveries are being promoted by providing cash assistance to pregnant women under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY).