

**Government of India  
Ministry of Finance,  
Department of Economic Affairs**

**Rajya Sabha**

**Unstarred Question No. 2160**

**To be answered on Tuesday, the 08<sup>th</sup> August, 2023**

**Declining expenditure on social welfare**

**QUESTION**

**2160.        Shri Ryaga Krishnaiah**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that from Budget data going back to 2009-10, the Budget of 2023-24 has been the first where social sector expenditure as a share of total expenditure has been lower than 20 per cent;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware that our Human Development Index (HDI) rank fell last year from 131 to 132 ; and
- (d) the details of how Government justifies this cut-back in the face of these facts?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

**(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)**

- (a) No Sir.
- (b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.
- (c) According to the Economic Survey 2022-23, the challenges posed by the aftermath of the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 and the ensuing Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022 have impacted the development trajectory of India and the world. In the wake of these developments, there was a global decline in human development. According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report, 90 per cent of countries have registered a reduction in their Human Development Index (HDI) value in 2020 or 2021, indicating that human development across the world has stalled for the first time in 32 years, India ranked 132 out of 191 countries and territories in the 2021/2022 HDI report. However, India's HDI value continues to exceed South Asia's average HDI value.
- (d) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.