

Adoption of Children by Foreigners

2267. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreigners who have adopted Children from India during the last three years and taken them to the foreign countries;

(b) whether there is any machinery to enquire into the plight of these children, once they left India;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Union Government that children adopted from India and taken to foreign lands are tortured and their body parts are sold; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) The number of foreigners who took children from India for adoption under the Guardians & Wards Act, 1890, as per information received from various courts during the last three years, are as follows:—

<i>Years</i>	<i>Number of Children</i>
1	2
1987	792
1988	686
1989	793

(b) In accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court the Government of India, from time to time, send to the Indian Embassies parents, the names, addresses and other particulars of such children taken abroad for adoption with the request that the Embassy or High Commission, as the case

may be should watch over the welfare and progress of such children.

(c) The Government have not received any such report.

(d) Does not arise.

Population Growth

2268. SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the annual population growth in India is at an alarming rate of 2.08 percent as compared to 1.38 per cent in China.

(b) whether experts believe that the key to peg the runaway population growth lies in improving the social status of women by expanding educational and employment opportunities for them, if the issue is to be solved permanently; and

(c) what specific integrated measures have been identified to make a success of the family welfare scheme to achieve zero population growth by the year 2050?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):

(a) The Government is aware of the prevailing higher population growth in India as compared to that in China. The latest available estimate of natural growth rate of India for 1988 is 2.05%.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To keep the population growth in the country within the manageable limits, a well designed strategy has been evolved which lays emphasis on improving quality of health services strengthening health infrastructure, enhancing child survival rates through Uni-