

tant factors affecting the success of the Programme are female employment, female education, age of marriage of women etc.

(c) The Family Welfare Programme being implemented as 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme has emerged as the main tool of population control in the country. The Programme is being implemented as an integral part of overall package of health services and there is integration between health and Family Welfare Programmes at various levels. There is no question of one Programme being implemented at the cost of others.

(d) As a part of the general process of decentralised planning and implementation envisaged for the Eighth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Local Community Organisations like Youth Clubs, Village Health Committee, Mahila Mandals etc. in the population control programme. The formulation of the Eighth Plan is under way. The details would be incorporated in the Eighth Plan document.

Committee on River Valley Project

2153. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environment Committee appointed by the Union Government to assess river valley projects have expressed serious reservations against Rs. 3000 crores Tehri Dam Project,

(b) if so, the main points expressed in their report;

(c) whether Government have considered these points; and

(d) the final decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The standing Environmental Appraisal Committee for River Valley Projects in the Ministry of Environment and Forests has examined the available data and Environmental Action Plans of the Tehri Dam Project and submitted its report. The findings of the Committee are under consideration of the Government and a final decision is to be taken shortly.

[*Translation*]

Manufacture of Defence Equipments

2154. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the defence equipments being manufactured in the country are also proposed to be imported from abroad in future,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is proposed to abolish the system of taking commission on the import of defence equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b). Items of defence equipment manufactured in the country are not considered for import unless there is a special justification for doing so.

(c) The existing policy provides that no agents/commission shall be permitted in the procurement of 'weapons' and 'weapon systems'. For other defence stores, agents/commissions can be permitted within the prescribed limits and subject to regulatory measures ensuring full disclosure of interest.