

श्री के० सी० सोबिया : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो थर्ड क्लास को समाप्त कर देने की बात है यह सिर्फ नाम में ही समाप्त होगी या सेकिड क्लास को जो इस समय महिलायें प्राप्त हैं वे थर्ड क्लास को भी प्राप्त होंगी ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह सारा प्रोग्राम कब तक इम्प्लीमेंट (कार्यान्वित) हो सकेगा ?

Shri Alagesan : I thought this has been sufficiently explained during the discussion on the budget. The idea is not to make a sudden change. As I said in reply, we propose to abolish the second class accommodation only on certain branch lines—it will not be even on all branch lines. This has to be phased over number of years. Even when we abolished the previous first class it had to be done, I think, over a period of two and a half years. And it has also been stated on the floor of the House that in course of time we would like to approximate the conveniences and amenities that obtain in the third class to those of the present second class.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan : I find it rather puzzling to understand. When the second class is abolished, or when the third class is abolished, what class are we going to have? Is it the proposal of the Government that we will have only one class which will be the first class. I have not been able to follow what the hon. Minister replied to this particular question. If I may ask him, I would request him to explain that.

Shri Alagesan : I thought this has been explained times without number. The idea is to retain only two classes which will be ultimately called the first and second classes. And there will also be the air conditioned class.

Shri Bansal : The reply was that third class will be abolished by the abolition of second class, and that is what is confusing some of us!

Mr. Speaker : Very well. Shri Dabhi.

Shri Dabhi : May I know whether, when the third class is ultimately abolished, there will be any increase in the fares?

Mr. Speaker : He wants to know whether consequent on the abolition of the present third class there will be any increase in fares.

Shri Alagesan : No, Sir. there will be no such thing.

Shri Kasliwal : At present in certain trains, in third class, you can reserve sleeping accommodation by paying a special surcharge. May I know whether the same conditions that are obtaining now would be applicable in the new second class, that is to say, you will be able to reserve sleeping accommodation?

Shri Alagesan : Yes, at present only on certain trains sleeping accommodation in third class is being reserved. That will be extended further.

Dr. Rama Rao : In view of the fact that third class accommodation is still very bad and overcrowding is such that it is almost a fight to get into a third class compartment—(An Hon. Member: More than a fight.)—does Government consider it advisable to go in for a better class instead of providing more third class compartments?

Shri Alagesan : We are not going in for more classes. Whenever the second class accommodation is removed attempts will be made to increase the third class accommodation so as to relieve overcrowding.

FAMILY PLANNING

*1987. **Shri Gidwani :** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a High Power Autonomous Board to take charge of the work in regard to population and family planning programme;

(b) if so, when the Board will be set up; and

(c) who will be the members of the Board?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) : The proposal is under consideration and details thereof are being worked out.

Shri Gidwani: When will the proposal be implemented?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Shortly.

Shri Gidwani: How many months will it take?

Mr. Speaker: Shortly.

Shri Gidwani: May I know what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to popularise family planning and to provide facilities to the people living in urban as well as rural areas to take full advantage of the same, and also to make available simple, cheap, acceptable and efficacious preparations free for that section of the population who cannot afford to purchase them?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: In the Second Five Year Plan we have included Rs. 4 crores for carrying out the family planning work. And there is a proposal to start 1,800 Family Planning Centres in rural areas and 300 in urban areas. The other things, in detail, will be worked out after the scheme is finalised.

Shri Gidwani: Is it proposed to give training to family planning methods in the medical colleges, health visitors' training schools and nursing colleges and in such other institutions as part of their curriculum?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Besides that, we are proposing to start a Family Planning Research and Training Institute which will give training for all persons who have to carry out this work.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: The hon. Minister said that they are going to start new clinics all over India. Now there are Maternity and Child Welfare Centres existing all over India. Is it possible that these Centres will also give advice to the people who go there for family planning?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): I would like to assure the hon. Member that it is through these Health Centres that the clinics will be functioning.

Dr. Rama Rao: Instead of utilising the vast organisation, both Central and State, in the Medical Department for these purposes, what is the reason for the Government to partially abdicate its powers and duties to these autonomous bodies.

Mr. Speaker: He means that if an autonomous body is created it will mean that some powers will have to be given away from the Centre.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The word 'autonomous' should not be interpreted as meaning that the Government of India or even the State Governments will abdicate their powers. But in order to get decisions quickly and take action more speedily, and in order to avoid as much red-tape as possible, it was thought that if there was an advisory board which can have a certain number of powers delegated to it, it would speed up action.

श्री बी० डी० पांडे : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में कुछ ब्रह्मचक्र आश्रम खोलने का भी विचार किया जा रहा है जहाँ वे लोग जा कर रह सकें जो यह प्रतिज्ञा करें कि हम विवाह नहीं करेंगे ? यह प्रथा हिन्दुस्थान में बहुत पहले से चली आ रही है और उस बक्त क्लिनिक्स (हजालयों) इत्यादि को कोई नहीं जानता था ।

राजकुमारी अमृत कौर : आश्रम खोलने के लिये कोई मुमानियत तो नहीं है और जो भी चाहे वह आश्रम खोल सकता है । मैं स्वयं आप से सहमत हूँ कि संयम सब से बेहतर चीज है ।

श्री बी० डी० पांडे : क्या मैं

Mr. Speaker: I have called Shri N. M. Lingam.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Apart from opening clinics and propagating methods of birth control, may I enquire what steps Government are taking to counteract the effects of fish, rice eating and ozone in areas like Travancore-Cochin which are said to contribute to the high degree of fecundity in those areas?

Mr. Speaker: I cannot understand the question.

Shrimati Sushama Sen : May I know if there is difference of opinion regarding family planning and whether the Government will ascertain and make sure that these methods are quite safe for our country before they are introduced in all parts of the country?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur : No method will be advocated by the Government that is not absolutely safe, simple and in keeping with our traditions.

Shri Gidwani : What is the result of investigations carried out in a number of places regarding the types of family planning, particularly in the rural areas so far. Is it not a fact that there are a number of centres among the rural women also?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur : Yes. There is already a wide awakening amongst the rural population and amongst the urban population also. But, in a programme like this results cannot be shown straightaway.

FOODGRAIN PRICES

*1988. **Shri Veeraswamy :** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of foodgrains are soaring up of late in South India;

(b) if so, the names of the States where the prices of grains are increasing ;

(c) the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to arrest the rise in prices of foodgrains?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa) : (a) and (b) : There has been some increase in the prices of foodgrains in all the States including the South Indian States.

(c) The main factors which contributed towards the increase in prices are :

(a) shortfall in production of khariff millets and consequent additional pressure on other foodgrains;

(b) speculative activities of the trade and hoarding of stocks by large-scale producers.

(d) The Government of India have already taken the following steps to check the rising prices of foodgrains:

(i) total ban on export of foodgrains ;

(ii) release of larger quantities of rice from Central reserve stocks;

(iii) stopping purchase of foodgrains in internal markets by Government;

(iv) issue of wheat freely from the Central stocks in important centres.

Shri Veeraswamy : May I know whether it is a fact that near famine conditions are obtaining in South India?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa : The South India prices compare with prices in other parts of India. The South India prices have not gone up so much especially of coarse rice which is eaten by the bulk of the population. The rise was only about 15 to 20 per cent. By our efforts and the State efforts, the prices have come down. If the hon. Member refers to yesterday's *Hindu and Express*, it is reported that the price of rice has started coming down.

Shri Veeraswamy : May I know whether a food reserve has been built up by the Government of India in the south to meet any emergency situation?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa : Almost all our food reserves will generally be in Bengal and the South.

Shri Bansal : About a week back, replying to a similar question, the Minister had said that the prices had gone up and they were coming down. Today he said that the prices are going up.

Shri Krishnappa : No no.