

**Mr. Speaker :** What the Government bring in the Bill is not asked about.

*(Interruptions)*

**Shri Rajveer Singh :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether permission will be given to the people of criminal antecedents for contesting election or not ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That is in the law....

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr. Speaker :** This is not allowed.

*[English]*

**Dr. Kartikeswar Patra :** In the past, during several State Assembly elections, the Government had experienced several lacunae and loopholes and the Government had overcome those lacunae. Is the Government thinking of undertaking some remedial measures other than those recommendations made by the Goswami Committee ? What measures did the Government consider after these elections were over ?

**Shri H. R. Bhardwaj :** The issue of electoral reforms is a matter of experience which we gain in each general election and the Election Commission makes those recommendations to the Government. We receive suggestions from the hon. Members and, sometimes, on the public demand and each one is taken care of, assessed and then brought before the House. So, it is a continuing process and whenever it is required, we always bring in these measures.

**Mr. Speaker :** He is wanting to know what are the remedies, according to the Government, against the use of money power, muscle power and narrow ideologies in the elections.

**Shri H. R. Bhardwaj :** With regard to money power, recently, they have increased the limit to make it realistic so that whatever can be legitimised has been done, and then on party donations and all such things, some law was passed; it can still be improved. These evils are there in the system and we are Cognizant of it.

*[Translation]*

## POPULATION POLICY

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**\*205. Shri Nitish Kumar :**  
**Dr. Mahadeepak Singh Shakya :**

Will the **Minister of Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state :

(a) whether a committee to prepare a "Population Policy" for the country was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan in the year, 1993;

(b) if so, the composition thereof and whether the

committee has submitted the report to the Government;

(c) if so, the date on which the Government have received the report and the details of recommendations made therein;

(d) whether any action plan has been prepared to implement the said recommendations; and

(e) if so, the outline thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

*[English]*

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar) :** (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The other members of the Group of Experts were Shri T.V. Antony, Dr. K.B. Pathak, Prof. Ashish Bose, Smt. Avabai B. Wadia, Smt. Devaki Jain, Dr. Vasant Gowarikar, Shri Pravin Visaria, Shri N. Bhaskara Rao and Dr. J.P. Gupta. The Group of Experts submitted its Report on 24th May 1994. The Report has been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 14th June, 1994.

(d) and (e) A draft National Population Policy has been prepared.

*[Translation]*

**Shri Nitish Kumar :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, population growth is a big problem in the country. The increasing pace of population is marginalising the fruits of whatever development is taking place and that is how we are lagging behind in terms of development. The rapid growth of population has become a matter of concern and is being debated in the country and normally a charge is levelled that political parties are not serious about it. We all know that the report of the Committee has been presented in the House. The Draft National Population Policy was supposed to be debated during the last session, but that could not materialise. We want to know from the Minister that by what time the Government will manage to frame the National Population Policy and by what time it wants to discuss it and implement it by making an action plan on the basis of the discussion?

*[English]*

**Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar :** Sir, about the National Population Policy, we have circulated the Report given by the Group of Experts to the State Governments and various Departments. We have received the comments of the State Governments; we have to take the views of the State Governments before formulating the National Policy on Population. We have started the departmental exercise—discussion in our Department, and we are trying to formulate the National Policy as soon as possible, I will not be in a position to give a definite date as of today.

*[Translation]*

**Shri Nitish Kumar :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, you too must be understanding it and if the process of 'as soon as possible' goes on unabated the pace at which population

is increasing will one day make us also helpless and the development of the country will suffer miserably. A Bill was also brought on it and it was debated also that let us start it from our own house only. It was stipulated that those of the members who have more children will loose their eligibility...*(Interruptions)*. This is not for matter's sake. Charity begins at home. Better if we control ourselves and enforce it from back date. This process of warding off the issue will not help. The report that has come, proves that the rate of population growth is more in the Hindi heartland. The National average is nereby 84 percent. The National average should be 28.3 percent and in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and U.P., the average rate is somewhere 30%, 33% and 36 percent. So whether any special action plan is proposed to be introduced in these Hindi speaking states where there is no impact of propaganda carried out against population growth so that the population growth could be controlled.

*[English]*

**Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar** : The hon. Member is right. He has rightly mentioned the States where the family welfare programmes are a little bit slow when compared to the other States. For that reason, the Government of India has selected 90 districts of our country and those districts are mostly from these States and we have given a separate special funding for expeditious implementation of the programmes and also for infrastructure development in the PH level and CH level so that they can take up the family welfare programme effectively and also there is information, communication and education component in that programme. We have taken up the programme in 90 districts mostly from these States.

*[Translation]*

**Dr. Mahadeepak Singh Shakya** : Our colleague has asked so many things. I will ask you in brief.

**Mr. Speaker** : Not from me.

**Dr. Mahadeepak Singh Shakya** : I will like to ask from hon. Minister as to by what time he will implement the report presented here and whether any recommendations were made for controlling population on the basis of morality, if so, then what measures have been taken to enforce the propaganda campaign against population growth.

**Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar** : I have already said that the report that we have produced on the floor of the House has also been sent to the State Governments. Several states have sent their comments in this regard and comments from some states are still awaited. We have sent copies of this report to various departments. We will finalise this policy at the earliest after receiving the comments.

**Dr. Mahadeepak Singh Shakya** : I have not got reply about the point of morality.

*[English]*

**Mr. Speaker** : Don't say like that,

*(Interruptions)*

**Shri Indrajit Gupta** : The reply given by the hon. Minister is liable to cause some confusion. At least, it is confusing me. I understood him to say that no population policy as such has yet been finally formulated. Some departmental exercise is being undertaken, the outcome of which we will await, of course. But I am sure it will fructify during the period of the Eighth Five Year Plan. It may come in the next Plan. I do not know. At the same time, the hon. Minister said that a policy has been laid on the Table before Parliament. Perhaps, the hon. Minister is referring to that Paper which was discussed in this House a couple of Sessions ago. I am not quite clear. Anyway, I would like to know whether among the many aspects of this policy or proposed policy which are going to be taken into account, they have any proposals to introduce some system by which some material incentives are given to people who do not exceed a certain family norm as far as children are concerned or alternatively a disincentive to those people who exceed those norms and produce a number of children.

Have they any concept of this incentive and disincentive because in many countries this method is being followed. In China it is being followed with a considerable success.

**Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar** : We had already passed a National Population Policy as far back as 1976 and we are going to update that policy with our present experience in the various States. As the hon. Member has rightly said, there is a too strong view about this incentive and disincentive thing. We are examining both the views. The one view has said that it should be a voluntary thing and there should not be any incentive. The other view has said that there should be some incentive also. So, we have not taken a view whether we are going to continue with our incentive thing or will discontinue the incentive thing. That is on the formulative stage because we have got different views from different States. We are taking into consideration all their views.

**Shri Saifuddin Choudhury** : Please do not discontinue with it.

*[Translation]*

**Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present the rate of population growth is far faster than the production which has created an imbalance. Does the Government propose to make efforts through education for creating public awareness against the dangers of population explosion to get co-operation of all the sections of society so that public could come forward for solving this problem.

**Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar** : The hon. Member has said an important thing. In the study conducted by our department, we found that Family Welfare Programmes have been much successful in these areas where

percentage of women education is higher and the States where women education is low, the family welfare programmes have not been that successful. I wish that people of those states should also be consulted to pay more attention on women education. In this way we find that family welfare programme is not a separate and independent issue but almost all the social issues are involved in it. We have to review all these social aspects and education is one of the important issues among them.

[English]

#### DRINKING WATER

\*207 Dr. Sakshiji : Will the Minister of Rural Areas and Employment be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any arrangement through Science and Technology inputs to provide safe drinking water in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

[Translation]

The Minister of Rural Areas and Employment (Dr. Jagannath Mishra) : (a) and (b) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statewise details are given at Annexures - I to VIII

#### Annexure-I

##### Defluoridation Plants

State	No. of Plants Approved		No. of Plants Installed	
	F&D	HPA	F&D	HPA
	(I) Andhra Pradesh	30	269	29
(II) Haryana	5		5	
(III) Gujarat	11		11	
(IV) Karnataka	10	9	2	9
(V) Madhya Pradesh	2	8	2	8
(VI) Maharashtra	2	2	2	2
(VII) Punjab	2		2	
(VIII) Rajasthan	40	64	40	28
(IX) Tamilnadu	4	11		11
(X) Uttar Pradesh		12		12
(XI) Kerala		2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>334</b>

F&D:Fill & Draw

#### Annexure - II

##### Desalination Plants

State	No. of Plants Approved	No. of Plants Installed
(I) Andhra Pradesh	14	14
(II) Gujarat	12	11
(III) Haryana	2	2
(IV) Maharashtra	2	2
(V) Rajasthan	92	85
(VI) Tamilnadu	21	20
(VII) West Bengal	3	3
(VIII) Lakshadweep	10	10
(IX) Pondicherry	7	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>150</b>

#### Annexure - III

##### Iron Removal Plants

State	No. of Plants Approved	No. of Plants Commissioned
(I) Assam	3772	3772 *
(II) Arunachal Pradesh	65	67
(III) Bihar	2500	300
(IV) Kerala	30	30
(V) Madhya Pradesh	2734	2734 *
(VI) Maharashtra	74	50
(VII) Manipur	255	248
(VIII) Meghalaya	200	200
(IX) Mizoram	100	100
(X) Nagaland	174	174 *
(XI) Orissa	3780	768
(XII) Tamilnadu	25	6
(XIII) Tripura	500	165
(XIV) Uttar Pradesh	319	319 *
(XV) West Bengal	1000	22
(XVI) Pondicherry	20	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>15548</b>	<b>8968</b>

\* Including 1875, 1722 and 43 plants setup in Assam, MP, and UP respectively in other schemes.