

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) Based on the ratio of married couples in the reproductive age-group per 1000 population as per 1971 Census, the number of couples in the reproductive age-group (age of wife 15-44 years) as on 30th June, 1976 is estimated at 104.7 million.

(b) The number of couples currently protected by sterilisation as of 30 June, 1976 is estimated at 15.0 million.

(c) An additional 4.3 million couples constituting 4.8 per cent of the balance are targetted to be sterilised during the year 1976-77.

(d) The objective spelt out of the present programme is to bring down the growth rate to 1.4 per cent by the end of the sixth Plan. Even if rapid fertility changes could be brought about so as to bring down the net reproduction rate to the replacement level by 1980-85, it is estimated that population will continue to grow till about the second half of the 21st Century.

Employment to Tribal Labour

1705. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Government have been asked to employ directly tribal labour who are exploited by forest contractors;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof;

(c) whether in other parts of the country tribal labour is also exploited by contractors; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any step to urge upon those State Governments to employ directly tribal labour?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOWIND VERMA): (a) to (d). Accord-

ing to the information made available by the Minister of Home Affairs, the State Governments have been advised to specifically consider, in the preparation of Sub-Plans for tribal development, the problem of forest labourers. In cases where there are intermediaries and contractors between the forest department and the forest labourers steps should be taken to ensure a fair deal for the tribal labourers and the ultimate elimination of forest contractors and intermediaries. The Forest Departments are also to take suitable steps to ensure regular employment to the tribals.

Exploitation of Kudremukh Iron Ore

1706. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the iron ore at Kudremukh is exploited by a separate Corporation formed for the purpose; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the Corporation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) A new company, named, Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd., has been formed under the Companies Act for the implementation of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project.

(b) the salient features of the Company are,

- (i) Registered Office : Bangalore
- (ii) Authorised Capital Rs. 150 crores, to be subscribed wholly by the President of India.
- (iii) No. of Directors: Minimum 5
Maximum 13
- (iv) Appointment of Directors: All Directors including the Chairman-Cum-Managing Director shall be appointed by the President of India.