

New Delhi via New Jalpaiguri twice a month for Defence Personnel.

Family Planning Programme Tardy in Rural Areas

3689. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that progress on the crucial family planning programme has been tardy particularly in some States, specially in the rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that in contract tribal population is diminishing ; and

(c) whether Government would involve organised, professional social institutions in this great task and challenge at the earliest and initiate a National debate and a National Plan to meet the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (c) Statements showing statewide achievement figures in rural/urban areas in respect of sterilisation and IUD during the last two years are placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1944/85]. Special attention is focused on implementation of the Family Welfare Programme in rural areas where it is implemented through the vast network of PHCs, RFWCs, Sub-centres etc. The Government is constantly striving to involve the organised sector, professional and social institutions in the implementation of the Family Welfare Programme. The components of the programme are discussed every year in the Joint meetings of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare which are attended by Health Ministers from the State Governments.

(b) A statement showing the population of scheduled tribes as per the 1961, 1971 and 1981 Census enumerations is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1944/85]. States have been instructed to adopt a welfare approach with emphasis on MCH activities in those tribal areas where the tribal

population is either diminishing or stagnant.

Research in Genetical Engineering

3690. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian scientists working in various research institutions in the country have developed new innovations in genetical engineering like vaccine for populations control, introduction of nitrogen fixing genes in cereals and millets and utilising genes in the yeast for the production of alcohol etc. as reported in the "The Times of India" dated 18 November, 1985;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to export results of such research and earn foreign exchange ; and

(c) whether these vaccines are now available in the country and if so, at which prices and wherefrom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) While Indian scientists in various research institutions are conducting research in these fields, there are no immediate prospects for a genetically engineered vaccine for population control based on DNA technology. It is also unlikely that nitrogen fixing genes will be transferred to cereals in a functionally effective manner in the near future. As regards the use of yeast for production of alcohol, a number of national laboratories are conducting R & D on using new approaches through bio-technology, although micro-organism yeast has been used for a number of years for converting sugar mollasses to industrial alcohol.

(b) The question does not arise at present.

(c) The question does not arise.