

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent the disease;

(c) whether the disease is essentially a water borne disease;

(d) if so, the steps taken to provide germ free drinking water to the affected areas;

(e) whether any Central scheme has been undertaken under the Seventh Plan for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the target fixed thereunder and the target achieved so far with the reasons for shortfall, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) (c) (f). Fluorosis is known to be prevalent in certain areas of Maharashtra.

Under National Drinking Water Mission, a sub-Mission on 'Control of excess fluoride' has been taken up with the following activities :

- (i) A fluorosis Control Cell has been constituted in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The Control Cell is conducting fluorosis awareness camps in various States. So far eight such camps have been conducted in the States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- (ii) Technology packages for removal of excess fluoride and engineering packages for defluoridation plants have been developed.
- (iii) Five demonstration defluoridation plants have been set up in various States.
- (iv) An action plan has been drawn to instal 130 defluoridation plants in various States/Union Territories. Fluorosis occurs when the fluoride

content of water is above 1.5 ppm. The disease is not related to presence or absence of germs.

Growth rate in Maharashtra

1828. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the yearly growth rate of population in Maharashtra during the Seventh Plan has been monitored and if so, the year-wise growth rate and the areas where the growth rate has been found to be significant;

(b) whether any special measures are contemplated to control the growth rate in such areas ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) The Natural Growth Rate of population is obtained as difference between birth and death rates as available from sample Registration System of Registrar General, India annually. The latest estimates of Natural Growth Rate for Maharashtra for the years 1985 and 1986 are 2.06% and 2.17% respectively. Since Sample Registration System provides estimates only at State level, the growth rates below State level are not available.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Decline in employment for women

1829 SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether jobs for women in jute industry, cotton textile industry, mines and quarries and agriculture sector are shrinking at an alarming rate as per data available with the employment exchange live registers :

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and