

U.S. Naval Task Forces in Indian Ocean

724. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that the US Government continues to send her Naval Task Forces to Indian Ocean;

(b) how many times during the last six months such naval forces of the US visited Indian Ocean;

(c) whether the US military base in Diego Garcia is now having more military men and arms and presents a threat to India and other littoral countries; and

(d) whether Government have taken up this matter with the US Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government of India is aware of the visits of U.S. Naval Task Forces from time to time to the Indian Ocean.

(c) The Government of India is aware of the continued expansion of the military facilities at Diego Garcia. The existence of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean presents a continuing source of tension and is a matter of deep concern to India and other littoral States in the region.

(d) The stand of the Government of India on Diego Garcia is well known to the Government of the USA.

Five-Point Programme of Shri Sanjay Gandhi

725. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the Central Government was involved financially or otherwise for the implementation

of the Five-Point Programme of Sanjay Gandhi, son of the former Prime Minister, especially in the sphere of Family Planning Campaign;

(b) the relative figures in regard to family planning during emergency and the year before; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide relief to the victims of this Family Planning excesses and to punish those who were responsible for these excesses and the results of these steps so far?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) The Government of India have accepted the importance and the need for controlling the rapid rate of increase of population and for this purpose, a programme has been in operation since the First Five Year Plan. In the beginning, this programme was limited to only educational activities but subsequently the Government decided to provide the basic infra-structure and personnel for making available services and necessary supplies to the people through a network of urban and rural Family Welfare Planning Centres. The Programme offers advice, consultation and services to all who need it. As an integral part of the Programme, Maternity and Child Health Care is extended to pregnant mothers and children in the younger age group. Various immunisation and prophylaxis schemes are implemented for the welfare of mothers and children. The Central Govt. has been meeting the full expenditure incurred in the States and Union Territories, on the implementation of this Programme since the beginning.

Family Planning Programme was a part of the 25-Point Programme which was reviewed as such at the Conference of Chief Ministers on 18-1-1977. However, motivational campaigns organised by Indian Youth Congress for promoting Family Planning were provided help by the Department of Family welfare by way of

making available some performance of a ballet show earlier developed on behalf of the Department of Family Welfare, and performances were arranged under the auspices of Indian Youth Congress with the help of the Song and Drama Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Some printed publicity material concerning the Family Planning Programme was also produced and distributed. An expenditure of Rs. 20,400 was incurred on holding the ten ballet performances at places selected in consultation with Indian Youth Congress.

(b) The estimated expenditure on the implementation of Programme

during 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77 was as under:—

	Estimated expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1974-75	6204.80
1975-76	7860.08
1976-77	14828.00

The figures of achievement under different methods of contraception are as follows:—

	Sterilisation	I.U.D.	C.C. users (including pills)	Total
1974-75	1,353,859	432,630	2,250,939	4,307,428
1975-76*	2,669,780	605,124	3,491,266	6,766,170
1976-77*	8,106,639	562,842	3,512,708†	12,182,189

*Figures provisional. †including oral pill users.

(c) The Government of India have issued detailed guidelines to the States and other implementing agencies for ensuring prompt and speedy relief in cases where an acceptor has either lost his life or developed complications after sterilisation. The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has also asked the State Governments to look into complaints of excesses and use of coercion/compulsion and to take appropriate action against those found responsible.

Opening of Post Offices, Telephone and Telegraph Offices in Himachal Pradesh

726. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices/Telephone and Telegraph offices in Himachal Pradesh, District-wise;

(b) whether Government have undertaken any survey for opening more Post offices/Telephone/Telegraph offices in Himachal Pradesh, District-wise;