

**Recruitment in Salem Steel Plant**

756. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of personnel and workers employed in Salem Steel Plant;

(b) the percentage of persons from Tamil Nadu so employed; and

(c) plans, if any, of a phased programme of recruitment to various categories?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) The total number is 162.

(b) It is not the normal practice in Government Undertakings to collect such information.

(c) In the process of finalization.

**Success achieved in control of Population Growth**

757. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the plea of World Bank President as reported in the Press on 29th April, 1977 for a concentrated and comprehensive effort at global birth control and his statement that 'short of thermo-nuclear war itself' population growth is the gravest issue the world faces over the decades immediately ahead;

(b) the success achieved so far in India in control of population growth;

(c) the nature of the concentrated and comprehensive efforts proposed for furthering control; and

(d) the figure at which the population in India is expected to stabilise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is estimated that as a result of the Family Welfare Programme, about 29 million births have been averted upto March, 1977 since the inception of the Programme, and the birth rate is estimated to have come down to about 34.3 per 1000 population in 1976-77 from 41.7 in 1961. The growth rate of population has dropped from about 2.2 per cent per annum during the period 1961-71 to less than 2 per cent per annum. But for the Family Welfare Programme, the growth rate would have been higher than at present.

(c) A copy of the statement of Family Welfare Programme Policy outlining the approach of the Government is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-365/77.]

(d) It is not possible to predict the level at which the population of India expected to stabilise, as much will depend on the future progress of the family welfare programme.

**Treaties for Strengthening Policy of non-Alignment**

758. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the results of the review of the working of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation during the recent talks with Mr. Gromyko;

(b) whether the review has shown strengthening of the policy of non-alignment of this country; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to consolidate the policy of non-alignment by similar treaties with other Powers?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) to (c). During the visit to India of the Foreign Minister of USSR, Mr. A.A. Gromyko, in April, 1977 the two sides reaffirmed their