

handling and service of meals, use of neat and clean uniforms, annual medical examination of the staff. The aspect of hygiene is regularly checked by Officers and Inspectors of Commercial and Medical departments, both in departmental as well as contractor managed catering establishments and defaulters are severely taken up.

(c) Yes.

**Steps to eradicate Malaria from Patna, Gaya, Bihar Sharief and Nawada**

6269. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to eradicate the ever increasing malaria menace in the towns of Patna, Gaya, Bihar Sharief and Nawada, where the eradication of mosquitoes programme has failed; and

(b) if not, whether any proposal is under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) The incidence of malaria in these towns is so low that these have not been covered by the National Malaria Eradication Programme (Urban). These towns are, however, covered by the National Filaria Control Programme, under which Anti-larval measures to reduce the mosquito population are being carried out.

(b) Does not arise.

**Mid Year Growth of Population of the Country**

6270. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any machinery to assess the mid year growth of population of the country;

(b) if so, what is the rate of growth of population in 1980 during the last six months as compared to 1979 and 1978 and their State-wise break-up; and

(c) if no such machinery is available, how Government propose to monitor the information to take corrective measures in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Sample Registration System (SRS) instituted by the Office of the Registrar General, India, is a machinery which provides annual Birth and Death rates and consequently the growth rate at the national level obtained as the difference between the birth and death rates. The growth rate of the population is also provided by the Expert Committee on Population Projection set up by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of the Registrar General of India.

(b) The rate of growth of population is estimated on annual basis. The SRS figures for the year 1979 and 1980 are not yet available. However, according to the projected estimates of the Expert Committee on Population Projection the annual growth rates of