

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Okay, Sir. Now, let me put the question.

Sir, it is related to the militant, extremist and terrorist outfit, the LTTE. It is relevant especially against the background of the Rajiv Gandhi assassination where there has been an alleged involvement of this particular outfit. Has this come to the notice of the Government? If so, what is the stand taken by the Government vis-a-vis the alleged involvement of the LTTE in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination?

MR. SPEAKER: I disallow it.

SHRI K. VIJAYABHASKARA REDDY: Sir, may I know from the hon. Home Minister whether all the agents of the ISI are collected in West Bengal and are then taken to Dhaka and from there they are taken to Lahore for training. After training they are again sent back to India through the same channel. Is the Government aware of this and if so, have they taken any steps to break this channel?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, one of the important activities of the ISI has been somehow to induct people and give them training, training in subversive activities; training in infiltration; training in arms; and this has been going on for quite some time. It is not confined to just one channel.

Sir, they have been doing it through various channels and we have been keeping a close watch on that and stopping and disrupting it wherever it is feasible. I have with me a long list of modules that have been unearthed and neutralised during the past two years. Very soon it would be possible for the Government to share all this information with the Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI ADITYANATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the Government whether the Government will take any action against the stepped up activities of infiltration through Bangladesh along the Indo-Nepal border, in which ISI and some traders and leaders of political parties of the area are involved after their identification?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The Government of India are aware that I.S.I. is trying to step up its activities in our country by making Nepal as its base and due to that, particularly the border of Uttar Pradesh is affected. We are continuously trying to check these activities with the help of Uttar Pradesh Government. Besides, to some extent we have succeeded in controlling these activities with the help of Nepalese Government on bilateral basis.

[English]

Increase in Population

*125. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is likely to face food and water shortage as its population is set to increase to 1,535 million by 2050, making it the most populous nation on the earth;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any specific strategies to check this problem of population explosion in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Projections made for 9th Plan document for increase in agricultural output and for per-capita availability of water do not indicate shortages in availability of these upto 11th Plan. The estimates of projected population of India in year 2050 made by UNFPA in 1996 are based on past trends of population growth. Lately efforts for Family Welfare and population stabilisation has been substantially strengthened and this is expected to help in keeping population of the country at a substantially lower level than projected in UNFPA estimates.

(b) and (c) As a result of Family Welfare effort, birth rate in the country has declined from 29.5 in 1991 to 27.2 in 1997. The use of contraceptives and terminal methods is being canvassed with citizens for avoiding unwanted pregnancies and facilities for reproductive and child health are being improved which would help in keeping families small in the long run. As a result progress in reduction of population growth is expected to improve in coming year.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is totally vague. I asked a categorical question. First, as per today's growth of population what would be the population of this country in the year 2050? Second, what steps the Government proposes to take for providing food for this increasing population? And third, what steps does the Government propose to take to control population?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, we work on the population growth and figures based on the past levels for the Ninth Plan Paper document. The increase in population in 2050, as made by the UNFPA in 1996, are based on the past trends the steps on population stabilization has substantially been strengthened in our country and it is expected to help in keeping the population in the country at a substantially lower level that has been projected by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, I could not get the proper answer.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask your second supplementary.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: The hon. Minister has not calculated the population that this country would be having, at the current rate of growth, in the year 2050. The Government cannot answer properly. I want a categorical answer from the Government as to what would be the population of this country in the year 2050 at the current rate of growth. What steps does the Government propose to take in this regard? The hon. Minister has not replied this question.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already submitted to the House that the population growth is calculated based on the past levels. Since 1991, the population growth rate in the country is slowly declining.

For instance in 1991, birth rate in the country was 29.5 and in 1997 it came down to 27.2. With the enormous effort of the Government and its commitment to reduce the population, this was achieved...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is asking as to what would be the population growth after the year 2050.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: The hon. Member is asking about the population figures in 2050. My humble submission is that the population is declining. As per the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, which is the base for population figures, it is essentially decreasing.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: We are asking for the figures.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has stated that it is decreasing.

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to ask questions on this subject.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh is being recognised for the unprecedented increase in population leading to social, economic and other types of problems. As has been said, there can arise the problems of scarcity of water and food in Uttar Pradesh, particularly the Eastern Uttar Pradesh is facing water scarcity. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the steps being taken by the Government to solve the water shortage of Eastern Uttar Pradesh?

[English]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, I need a separate notice on this so that I can collect the information and submit it to the hon. Member.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, in the past years, the Government had very specific schemes for family planning. But nowadays, you notice that there is no incentive for family planning. I would like to know from the Government whether there is any scheme, whether there is any plan of the Government to give incentives to couples who desist from having children.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1996-97, the allocation for family planning was Rs. 1,547 crore.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: That is not my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister complete his reply please.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: In 1997-98, the fund allocation was Rs. 1,829 crore and in the third year it is Rs. 2,489 crore.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, the Minister is not able to understand the question. It seems he has not come prepared.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: I am answering the question. The hon. Member has asked about the incentives and as to whether the Government is encouraging family planning or not.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is replying correctly.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: The Government is committed to encourage family planning programmes in the country and with the help of the State Government' ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has asked as to what are the incentives that the Government is going to give for family planning.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Whatever services have been available all the time are continuing even now. In fact, we have increased the fund also to give more encouragement to the scheme.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: There are no incentives now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a question from the hon. Minister regarding health that as the life saving drugs are becoming costlier in the country and poor people are not getting these from the hospitals, whether the Government will make any arrangements that the life saving drugs are easily available to the poor in the country from the Government hospitals.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand, this question relates to population growth.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides population this matter also relates to drugs and medicines. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the arrangements being made by the Government to make available medical facilities and low priced medicines to the poor?

[*English*]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, it has no relevance to this Question. I need a separate notice for this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, inspite of the existing family planning schemes the rate of increase in population in the country is not coming down. It is my practical experience that at present under family planning schemes money as an incentive is given both to the persons who encourage and who adopt this, but still the targets fixed are not being achieved. Under such circumstances they register false cases that some

one know as Dhanna Lal S/o. Shri Kanhaiya Lal, aged 35, having two kids, has been operated upon but no person of such name exists. I would like to know whether the Government propose to enact any strict law to rectify this? Besides this, more than two children. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been answered. So, I disallow you. Please take your seat.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question to the hon. Minister is that keeping in view the growth in population in our country, has the Government got any plan to curb this population growth and declare this Family Planning Scheme as a national programme irrespective of caste, creed and religion? Is the Government going to pursue this matter of Family Planning and growth in population as a national programme which will be implemented taking into consideration all parties irrespective of their flag and colour? Has the Government got any such plan?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, the Family Planning itself is voluntary. It is not compulsory. Ours is a democratic country. Family Planning involves not just health alone. It involves many things, for example, social customs, traditions, life style, etc. So, several issues are involved in this. Therefore, it is everybody's responsibility, including the hon. Members, to join together and support us.

MR. SPEAKER: It is the responsibility of the hon. Members also.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Yes, Sir. The Government is open for your suggestions and recommendations to make this Family Programme a successful one.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH: Will the hon. Minister consider disincentives to implement this scheme? The days of incentives are gone. Now, it is time for the Government to think of some disincentives. Will the Government think in that direction?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, so far, we do not have any incentive schemes for the Family Planning. Actually, it is voluntary. If the the hon. member has any specific recommendation or suggestion to be considered, we will take that into account....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH: That is why this programme is going on like this.