

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3697
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2001
POPULATION CONTROL
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the latest report of the National Commission on Population has come a severe indictment of the Government of Rajasthan and exposed the hollowness of claims made by the successive Governments in the State about changes in the countryside;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the content of the NCP report reveals that all the 32 districts of Rajasthan are ranked the lowest in the country;
- (c) whether the report highlights the alarmingly wide socio-demographic disparities among the major States in the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a): The National Population Policy 2000 adopted by Government drew the attention of all concerned to the striking demographic diversity across the country, and detailed substantial difference between states in the achievement of basic demographic indices. Annexure III of the National Population Policy 2000 tabulated details in respect of all the states and UTs of India regarding their respective demographic transition and population stabilisation.

The National Commission on Population (NCP) has drawn upon the RCH surveys and facility surveys conducted by Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare since 1998. Additionally, Census 2001 has confirmed much of these findings.

The National Commission on Population has brought out a publication ranking 569 districts of the country in accordance with 12 socio-economic indicators with a view to providing a ranking and some inter-se comparison between districts, on the basis of the parameters identified. This district-wise information/data confirms the demographic disparity among the major states, cited in the NPP 2000. Rajasthan is among the states whose districts have been included in the listing contained in the publication.

(b): It is not correct to say that all 32 districts of Rajasthan are ranked the lowest in the publication.

(c)&(d): Yes, the publication confirms wide diversity and demographic disparity among the major states in the country. The Government recognizes the importance of ensuring balanced development for all States. Therefore, the Tenth Five Year Plan proposed to include a state-wise breakdown of the overall development targets, including targets for growth rates and social development. These state specific targets will take into account the potential as well as the constraints encountered in each State and will focus on sectoral patterns of growth and their regional dispersion. It will also clarify the nature of reforms that will need to be implemented at state levels to achieve the growth targets adopted for the states.