

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1839

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000

CHECK ON POPULATION

PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;VENKATA KRISHNAM RAJU UPPALAPATI

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

- (a) whether the position of India in respect of population would stand first in the World very shortly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the family planning schemes taken up by the Government are not at all effective specially in the rural areas;
- (d) whether any stringent measures being proposed by the Government to effectively enforce two children norms;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether some States have introduced legislation adopting two children norms;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SH SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1839 TO BE ANSWERED ON 7 MARCH, 2000 REGARDING CHECK ON POPULATION BY SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA, SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

(a)&(b): If current trends continue, India may overtake China in 2045, to become the most populous country in the world, with a projected population of 152 crore. The National Population Policy has been approved by the Government, during February, 2000. The Policy aims at a long-term objective to achieve a population stabilisation by 2045, at the level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental protection.

(c) It is true that the performance of family planning programme is not alike in rural and urban areas. The National Population Policy, 2000 has therefore, proposed priority attention for making reproductive health care, accessible and affordable by all, of increasing rural infrastructure, and development, extension of primary and secondary education, and basic amenities like safe drinking water, sanitation and housing, appropriately trained health personal and provision of essential equipment and drugs.

(d)to(e) No, Sir. No stringent measure has been proposed by the Government to enforce two child norm. The National Population Policy advocates the small family norm. The National Family Welfare Program continues to be voluntary in nature.

(f)to(h) Rajasthan, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Orissa have enacted legislation, in relation to Panchayats and Municipalities, for disqualifying persons from contesting elections or holding elective office, on the grounds of violating the two child norm. The Central Bill, on the two child norm, viz. the Constitution (Seventy-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1992 is pending before the Rajya Sabha since December, 1992. The discussions are continuing to arrive at a consensus among political parties, for passage of the Bill.