

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3484
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
POPULATION IN MAHARASHTRA
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);HARIBHAU MAHALE

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

- (a) whether Maharashtra is the fifth most populous State in the country;
- (b) if so, the per second birth rate in the State at present;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the birth rate in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

- (a): As per 1991 census, Maharashtra ranks third in the population in the country.
- (b): As per estimates of Sample Registration System of Registrar General, India, the Crude Birth Rate of Maharashtra is 22.5 for the year 1998.
- (c)&(d): Following steps have been taken to tackle the population problem in all the States including Maharashtra:-
 - (i) An integrated and holistic programme of Reproductive and Child Health that includes Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues was launched in October, 1997.
 - (ii) Information, Education and Communication Programme is an ongoing programme to increase awareness about the benefits of small family.
 - (iii) Assistance to States/UTs continues, towards maintenance of family welfare infrastructure.
 - (iv) Assistance to Voluntary Organizations and NGOs for creating awareness about schemes under family welfare programme.

In order to speed up the efforts of population stabilization in all the States including Maharashtra, Government has adopted the National Population Policy, 2000 in February, 2000, which provides a holistic approach to the programme. It enumerates various Strategies and Action Plan to achieve immediate, medium and long-term objectives. The Policy lists national socio-demographic goals for 2010 leading to population stabilization by 2045.