

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3637
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the World Population Report 2004 released recently has highlighted the need for India to spend more on health and education;
- (b) if so, whether India's current health spending remains at a low 0.9 per cent of the GDP;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether according to the above report, India's population currently 1.08 billion is expected to reach 1.53 billion in 2050, making it the most populous country in the world; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to control the population in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. The aggregate public expenditure on health comprising expenditure incurred by State Governments and the Central Government is 0.9 per cent of GDP.

The National Common Minimum Programme of the Government envisages raising the public spending on health to at least 2-3 per cent of GDP over the next five years, with focus on primary health care.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The National Population Policy 2000 has been adopted by the Parliament, which aims at population stabilisation through voluntary approach for family planning. The Reproductive and Child Health Programme simultaneously addresses the issues of contraception, maternal and child health. An Empowered Action Group has been constituted in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for focussed attention on eight States with weak socio-demographic indicators.