

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:214
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
POPULATION CONTROL MEASURES
Appadurai Shri M.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take some effective measures to control population of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make any law to increase the marriage age for both male and female in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 214 FOR 15TH DECEMBER, 2004

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government assigns top priority to the issue of population stabilization in the country. As per the revised population paradigm adopted in the National Population Policy, 2000, the Government seeks to address the issue of population stabilization in a comprehensive manner, by simultaneously addressing the issues of improved availability of services for contraception, maternal and child health under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme being implemented in the country since 1997. The Government also sees economic and social development as contributing factors for attaining population stabilization and thus aims to achieve inter-sectoral convergence with related social sectors for improved, female literacy, women empowerment, delayed age at marriage, nutrition and sanitation.

The National Commission on Population has been constituted to oversee the implementation of the National Population Policy and State Population Commissions have been set up in 17 States. A Janasankhya Sthirata Kosh has also been registered as an autonomous society to encourage private sector involvement in the Family Welfare Programme. The Government aims to make the family welfare programme a people's programme through increased involvement of Non Government Organisations, Community Based Organisations and Self- Help Groups and improved access to quality family welfare services through vibrant public private partnership for health.

9 States/UTs (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Nagaland, Delhi, Pondicherry, A&N Islands, Chandigarh and Mizoram) have already achieved the goal of the National Population Policy for attainment of Total Fertility Rate of 2.1, while 11 more (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu and Sikkim) are poised to achieve the same. The real challenge of population stabilisation is in select States i.e. U.P, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. An Empowered Action Group was constituted in 2001 for focussed attention on these 8 States. Presently, a proposal is under consideration of the Government to launch a National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) throughout the country with special focus on 17 States including 8 EAG States, 8 NE States and J&K.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The implementation of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, remains a major challenge in most States due to lack of public support. Raising the age of marriage further from 21 years for male and 18 years for female may be even more difficult to implement.