

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2519

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009

NEW POPULATION POLICY

Satpathy Shri Tathagata; Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

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

- (a) whether the population in the country is increasing rapidly and it is expected to surpass the population of China;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to have a fresh look at the population policy;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to discuss the issue with State/Union Territories for effective implementation of population policy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) Yes. The Technical Group on Population Projections set up by the National Commission on Population has come out with population projections for India and states. As per this report, India's population is expected to reach 1.11 billion by 2006; 1.19 billion by 2011; 1.27 billion by 2016; 1.34 billion by 2021 and 1.40 billion by 2026. India is estimated to increase its population by about 18 million every year. India's population will grow to 1.53 billion by 2050. This will make India the most populated nation by then, overtaking China.

(b) & (c): No. The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables a couple to adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them according to their choice, without any compulsion.

Efforts on Population stabilization very much requires strengthening of the primary health care system as there is a very strong correlation between health indicators like Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate to the population stabilization. As such in line with the National Population Policy, 2000 Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) on 12th April, 2005 throughout the country to address the strengthening of primary health care system. NRHM provides a thrust for reduction of child and maternal mortality and further reduces the fertility rates.

The approach to population stabilization under NRHM is through providing quality health services in remote rural areas along with a wide range of contraceptive choices to meet the unmet demands for these services which includes delivery, safe abortions, treatment of reproductive tract infections and Family Planning Services while ensuring full reproductive choices to women. The strategy also is to promote male participation in Family Planning.

The new initiative of NRHM of Community Health Workers (ASHAs) in every village has positively contributed towards households seeking health and family planning services and also has strengthened the public awareness campaign for family planning services. The strategy also is to promote male participation in Family Planning. There has been an improvement in family planning performance with the implementation of NRHM with particular focus on the following: -

(i) National Family Planning Insurance Scheme has been started since November, 2005 to compensate the sterilization acceptors for failures, complications and deaths and also provides indemnity insurance cover to doctors.

(ii) Compensation Package for Sterilization was increased in September, 2007 in family planning i.e. in Vasectomy from Rs.800/- to Rs.1500/- and tubectomy from Rs.800/- to Rs.1000/- in public facilities and to a uniform amount of Rs.1500/- in accredited private health facilities for all categories in all States for vasectomy.

(iii) Promoting IUD 380A intensively as a spacing method because of its longevity of 10 years and advantages over other IUDs.

(iv) Fixed day Fixed Place Family Planning Services round the year made possible on account of growing number of 24x7 PHCs and better functioning CHCs and other health facilities under NRHM.

(v) Increasing the basket of choice by systematically and carefully introducing new and effective contraceptives in the programme. The outreach activities through the institution of ASHAs and Monthly Health and Nutrition Days under NRHM have also helped.

(d) to (e):- Government reviews the issue on Population Stabilization at different forum from time to time with the States/UTs. Regular visit are made by Officers from the Government of India to understand the local issues of respective States and get them properly addressed at appropriate platform.