

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2238

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2010

POPULATION CONTROL

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

- (a) whether the country's population is likely to surpass the population of China by 2050;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch an awareness programme about the benefit of small families;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government also proposes to enforce 'One-child for one family' policy to control the population;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the details of other concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check population growth in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b): At the current rate, India's population is expected to surpass that of China to become the most populous country in the World.

(c) & (d): India adopted a comprehensive and holistic National Population Policy (NPP), 2000, which provides a policy framework for advancing goals and prioritising strategies to meet the reproductive and child health needs of the people and to achieve net replacement level i.e. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 by 2010. It is based upon the need to simultaneously address issues of child survival, maternal health and contraception while increasing outreach and coverage of a comprehensive package of reproductive and child health services with government, industry and the voluntary non-government sector, working in partnership.

(e) & (f): There is no proposal to enforce one-child norm in the country. 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.

The success of family Welfare Programme in some states like Kerala, Goa and Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh etc. has also shown that coercion is not required for achieving population stabilisation.

(g): Population stabilization is also one of the objectives of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched in April, 2005. It gives a thrust on reduction of infant mortality, maternal mortality and fertility rate.

The following steps are also taken to stabilize population:-

- 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 acceptance of No Scalpel Vasectomy to ensure male participation.
- iv. Promoting IUD 380A intensively as a spacing method because of its longevity of 10 years and advantages over other IUDs.
- v. Fixed day Fixed Place Family Planning Services round the year encouraged through growing number of 24x7 PHCs and better functioning CHCs and other health facilities under NRHM.
- vi. Increasing the basket of choice by systematically and carefully introducing new and effective contraceptives in the programme.

vii. The Prerna strategy (Responsible Parenthood Practices) of Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) aims at promotion of delayed marriage (after the legal age) among girls, by rewarding and publically honouring the women who marry after the legal age and ensure proper spacing in the birth of their children.

viii. The Santushti strategy provides private sector gynaecologists and vasectomy surgeons an opportunity to conduct sterilisation operations in Public Private Partnership (PPP).

ix. The JSK Call Centre on Reproductive, Family Planning and Child Health provides authentic information on issues related to reproductive and child health