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Title: Reported excesses in enforcement of family planning programmes in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): Sir, there is a very sensitive issue that has to be addressed by this country at large. There is a National Commission on Population of which hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is the Chairperson. There is a report that has been gathering dust for the past one year, particularly they have spoken about the State of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh has shown some dramatic results in the decline of population. Now, all conventional studies have been addressed to understand why Andhra Pradesh has got a declining population growth as compared to other States such as Kerala, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka where we have had reduction in the population and we have been able to understand why it happened. Now, there is some horrifying truth which has come out about the State of Andhra Pradesh. They are using Women Self-Help Finance Groups, the DWCRA Mahila Groups informally to pressurise women to undergo compulsory sterilisation to meet the targets. From 1988, we do not allow the targets to be met anymore. We do not give disincentives anymore. As a result of which, their ration cards have been taken away in Andhra Pradesh if they do not go in for family planning...*(Interruptions)* You can keep denying. It does not mean anything.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : No, that is not correct. I am denying this....*(Interruptions)* Andhra Pradesh is the best State as far as family planning is concerned. These people are coming voluntarily. But what the hon. Member is saying is not true....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It may not be true. You can give another notice and say that this is not the truth.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: This is not my story. This is a report....*(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister is the Chairperson.

MR. SPEAKER: You need not reply. You can address the Chair.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Yes, I need not reply him. Not only that, of the 278 health functionaries, 82 per cent felt some couples adopted sterilisation only for incentives....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have done your duty.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : The hon. Member should appreciate the decline in the population....*(Interruptions)* We are giving special attention.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, we are not talking about China. We are talking about India, where there is democracy.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : We are spending a lot of rupees for family planning control.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : We have to educate people about population control. We should not take away the ration cards and cut out electricity. They are pressurising the women to go there....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go ahead. I am very much attentive.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : This is absolutely true. This is not the fiction written by Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury. This is the report that has been published. If they want, I will bring out this report and table it. Then I do not know where they can go and hide. उसके बाद कहां मुंह छिपायेंगे, मुझे समझ में नहीं आता है।

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : So, you should appreciate the decline in the population.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : So you kill them. That is very nice. You call the women and kill them. That is what you are recommending.

Sir, there are withdrawals of ration cards, discontinuation of supply of rice and other essentials in some villages. I am concerned over this. Of course, we want our population to decline. I am proud to announce that when I was the Health Minister of this country, we had started the decline in our population. But an insensitive treatment to a delicate issue like family planning can reverse our fortune. This is not the way to educate our polity. We must also respect citizens' rights, the woman's reproductive years and leave the choice to her and to her family. We educate the people about what the issues are, but we should not use downright duress to remove the rights of the citizens.