

| 1   | 2             | 3  | 4 | 5  |
|-----|---------------|----|---|----|
| 7.  | Maharashtra   | 11 | 9 | 12 |
| 8.  | Punjab        | 1  | 1 | 1  |
| 9.  | Rajasthan     | 1  | - | -  |
| 10. | Tamil Nadu    | -  | 3 | -  |
| 11. | Uttar Pradesh | 4  | - | -  |
| 12. | West Bengal   | -  | 1 | 3  |
| 13. | Chandigarh    | 1  | - | -  |
| 14. | Delhi         | -  | 8 | -  |

### Population in the Country

4098. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

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

(a) the present total population of the country and its present birth rate;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some States the increase in population has touched 5 per cent annually;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposed to follow up the programme/action implemented by China for population control;

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to formulate a new scheme to make the family welfare programme more effective;

(f) whether the Government thought for monthly quota to those health and family welfare officers/workers engaged in such-divisions and blocks of various districts to reach its targets; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government to give a practical shape to this task with the cooperation of the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The total population of the country as on 1st March, 1998 is estimated around 966 million. As per the latest estimate available from Sample Registration System, the birth rate in 1996 has been estimated at 2.75 per thousand population.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

(d) No, Sir. It is the view of the Government that population stabilisation in the country must be achieved by better availability of services to the citizens and by citizens being encouraged by IEC to avail of such services. Government is against use of coercion for achieving stabilisation of population.

(e) The Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH), which is an integrated approach to the family welfare programme is being implemented in the 9th Five Year Plan. The concept of RCH is to provide to the beneficiary need based, client centred, demand driven and high quality services. This is being sought to be achieved by improving facilities for Family Welfare Services under various specific programmes.

(f) No, Sir. The system of centrally determined method-specific targets for Family Planning has been dispensed with since April, 1996 in all the States/UTs, because working on the basis of such targets/quota leads to many distortions and quality of services to the citizens suffers.

(g) Does not arise.

### Southern Gas Grid

4099. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is a party to the Southern Gas Grid scheme;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the extent to which this scheme will help Goa;

(c) whether this scheme is proposed to be extended upto Kerala for finding solution of shortage of LPG in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The Government have accepted in principle the concept of a Southern Gas Grid.

(b) The objective of Southern Gas Grid is to transport gas from the Western Offshore fields, supplemented by imported natural gas/LNG. Goa is not covered in this concept.