

National Population Policy has been prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the same is at present under Government's active consideration. The draft policy seeks to address all relevant issues relating comprehensive inter-sectoral coordination for reaching the desired goal of population stabilisation within the shortest possible time.

The Government has already taken several policy initiatives to change the direction and the scene for the Family Welfare Programme. Contraceptive method specific targets have been given up; a process of decentralised planning and implementation of the programme has been initiated and a countrywide Reproductive and Child Health Programme for upgrading and expanding services in the area of maternal and child health has been launched. There is a renewed emphasis on male participation in the programme. The support of the non-government organisations and the private sector is being enlisted. The IEC (Information, Education and Communication) campaign is being strengthened. Government proposes to intensify and integrate all such programmes.

Development of Cochin Shipyard

1017. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the development of the Cochin Shipyard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :
(a) and (b) Augmentation, upgradation and modernisation of shipbuilding/Shiprepair facilities is a continuous process and it is done through the Plan Schemes.

During the 8th Five Year Plan a sum of Rs. 33.55 crores was spent for the purpose in Cochin Shipyard Limited. In the 9th Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 65 crores has been provided. A sum of Rs. 10 crores was released for implementing various Plan Schemes during 1997-98. A sum of Rs. 10 crores has also been allocated for implementing Plan Schemes, included in the Annual Plan for 1998-99.

Fraudulent use of Telephones

1018. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether fraudulent use of telephones are allegedly going on in some major cities like Bombay, Bangalore, Calcutta, New Delhi and other cities by connivance with departmental staff, enabling long time and large scale STD and ISD calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a departmental Suo Moto vigilance inquiry in this regard has been ordered; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) and (b) 44 cases of fraudulent use of telephones from various cities have come to notice.

(c) and (d) Of these 44 cases, 19 cases have been made over to CBI. Disciplinary action as per rules against the employees found guilty has been initiated/ taken in 19 cases. 6 cases are under departmental investigations.

[Translation]

Out of Order STD Lines at Kanpur

1019. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the STD lines at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh generally remain out of order due to technical problems;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which they are likely to be in the working condition; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for providing uninterrupted S.T.D. service in the town?