

provision of, 'Muster-Roll' under the NREP and RLEGP. The officials obtain thumb impression of 15 persons while actually only 10 workers are engaged. The amounts paid under these programmes should be subject to audit as funds are being misappropriated. I do favour allocation of funds for rural development but the focal point of my submission is that it is a misconception that funds are reaching directly to the labourers. The Village Development Officer acts as an intermediary under RLEGP, who misappropriates the funds. Large scale misuse of these funds is taking place in all the States with the sole exception of Maharashtra. The performance does not measure up to the quantum of funds provided by the Central Government. There is no prescribed unit to measure the work to be put in by a labourer for Rs. 6, 10 paid by you under N.R.E.P. or R.L.E.G.P. and this is resulting in misuse of funds. I have written a letter to the hon. Minister that the State Governments are concentrating on schemes which attract immediate public attention in order to win over the voters during the coming elections. Shri N.T. Rama Roa, our Chief Minister has supplied rice at the rate of Rs. 2/- per kg. in Andhra Pradesh, which cost about Rs. 3 crores. Such schemes have stalled the development projects. With this sum of Rs. 13 crores two development projects could be undertaken. You must exercise some control on the State Governments so that they may not be able to divert funds for such works aimed at winning votes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

15.36 hrs.

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[*Translation*]

Sixty-Fifth Report

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Sixty-Fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th April, 1989".

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Sixty-Fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th April, 1989"

The motion was adopted

15.37 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: MEASURES TO CONTROL POPULATION EXPLOSION.
Contd.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will take up further discussion on Resolution regarding measures to control population explosion moved by Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi on 31st March 1989.

Dr. Manoj Pandey may continue his speech. He is not present in the House. Mr. Somnath Rath.

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh): Sir, I am on a point of order. I request that other Resolutions may also please be taken up today. Otherwise, we may not find time to discuss them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only 40 minutes are left for the resolution under discussion. After the Minister's intervention and the final reply, we will certainly take up the other Resolutions today itself. Please sit down.

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN: Thank you, Sir.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: This resolution of mine is very important. Time must be extended. Many hon. members want to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the outset, I congratulate my friend Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi for having brought this Resolution on Measures to control Population Explosion. Sir, all sections of the House have shown keen interest in the Health Policy and the twin goals of our health policy to achieve health for all the 2000 AD and to reach the one-child norm by 2000 AD.

Various steps have already been taken under the 20-Point Programme of our Prime Minister for implementation of this policy. The objects for family planning, particularly sterilisation, IUDs and oral pills, promotion of child health programmes, etc have all been given adequate importance. The mortality rate has been reduced from 27.4 to 14.8 per thousand population and life expectancy at birth has increased from 32.7 years to over 52 years.

In spite of impressive progress, the demography and health picture of the country still continues to be the cause for serious concern. The high rate of growth of population continues to have an adverse effect on the health of the people, on the life of the people and also on the growth of the country. It over-shadows all our achievements and growth in economic front. The mortality rate of women and children are still high. One-third of the total death occurs among the children below the age group of five years. Infant mortality is round about 129 per thousand live births. Mal-nutrition continues to be as usual. Only 31 percent of the rural population could get potable water supply. 0.5 percent of the population enjoys basic sanitation. Poverty and ignorance are responsible cause of growing population.

What is required is that attention should be given to the measures and they must be expedited so that we can reach the goal by the turn of the Century, as envisaged.

The socio-economic development process should be given the thrust. The involvement of private voluntary organisations and the implementation of Twenty Point Programme are the need of the hour.

The family planning programme must be the people's programme and it should be implemented on voluntary basis, specially in tribal, hilly and other backward areas.

In our country, the family planning programme cannot be implemented by coercion. But it should be implemented by persuasion. It is our policy. India is the first country, where the family planning programme has been taken on government basis. The family planning programme is now styled as family welfare programme.

Small family norms should be spread throughout the villages and people should be educated. The national population policy should cover all parts of the country for which co-operation from all parties is required.

What happened after 1977? There was a family planning structure before that. But to gain political advantage, this structure was demolished. There was a lot of criticism, rather discouragement, against the implementation of the family planning programme. In fact, in 1977 at the time of elections, this was taken as a weapon against the Congress Party, the then Government. And the party which came to power, demolished all the infrastructures. So, the birth rate instead of going down, went up. So, now all the parties have realized the faults which were committed. All the parties, cutting across party lines, should join hands, cooperate and declare it as a national policy to see that family planning is rigorously implemented in the country; and to that end, there should be honest and sincere attempts by all the parties concerned.

Now about child labour. As against the estimate of the Planning Commission that there are 17.36 million working children in India, unofficial sources place the figure anywhere between 44 million and one

hundred million. Poverty is the root cause for child labour. An ILO survey, made in an industrial area, has shown that children, specially girls, constitute the bulk of the work force. From the report given by the Department of Health, it is seen that there was a decline in performance under sterilization. It is for the Department of Health to see why there is this decline. Adequate facilities for training in laparos copy should be provided. Similar steps should be taken regarding medical termination of pregnancy also.

I had gone to China. We found that in China, in two decades the growth rate could be reduced from 3% to 1.2%. In India, though there is a slight decline, it has come down just to 2%. Though we spend a huge amount every year in India on plans under family welfare, the result is not satisfactory it is 2% even now.

The success of India's planning depends on the success of family planning efforts. Population explosion should be controlled, if we are to eradicate poverty and unemployment in the country, and attain Health for All. We should consider why people in the rural areas of India think of having more children. One reason we can give is illiteracy; others could be early marriage and other social and religious aspects. But we forget another point, viz. poverty. More children, specially sons, are required as old age security to poor parents. So, if we can inculcate the idea in the minds of people that even one child can live for a longer time and if we can give better treatment and security to people in their old age, then I think their attitude will change

In China also, we met many old people. The condition was similar there. There also, old people long for sons.

Of course, in India, conditions differ: after the death of the parents, the sons perform the religious rights. So the parents wish to have a son though they have daughters. But in China, there is a very good coverage.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you want to be relieved by him, I think you should be relieved earlier.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: I am stressing on the point because in China there is a very good coverage; the coverage is that for 20 families there is a committee and the members of that committee look after those 20 families and educate them on family planning. If a lady is pregnant more than once, they persuade her for an abortion. In China, there is one-child norm whereas in India we have got two-child norm. In China, there is one-child norm and the Resolution also lays stress on it. So, what is needed in India is that we should popularise the movement. In China, they could do so because the Government policy there is being implemented by the communist party workers also in right earnest. In India, the media should be utilised to popularise the family welfare programme. Similarly, we should lay stress on literacy education and the media should also be used for implementing the family planning norm. In 1947, our population was 342 millions; in 1988, our population was 800 million. 2.4 percent of the global land area is in our country where about 15 percent of the world population is accommodated. There is about 15 million increase in our country every year. We add population equal to that of Australia, not by area.

The infant mortality is very high; it is 95 percent though reduced from 140 percent in 1977. Primary health care services to all families and maternity and child health care facilities should be given to the villagers in particular. Rigorous family planning programme is the only way to solve the problem. Lack of motivation specially amongst rural households towards a small family norm is the real cause of the problem. The health workers should work with a spirit of service and sincerity of purpose. The India Government should meet cent percent the expenditure on the family welfare.

We have got in the blocks, two doctors and many para-medical workers meant for

[Sh. Somnath Rath]

this purpose. But are they working sincerely? They must have the spirit of service; that must be taught to them by the Department. Unless they work in a missionary spirit and motivate the people, how could this policy be implemented?

There is a decline in birth rate, of course, but it is very meagre because the acceptance of the family planning, is not as much as is expected to be. This is as I have stated due to young age of marriage, social attitude, religious belief and illiteracy. But it can be met if a sincere attempt is made by all the political parties and voluntary organisations. I appeal to all the political parties and voluntary organisations and people at large to help the Government in this matter. Because the population growth is high, the fertility rate needs to be curbed. Despite massive investments on family planning every successive year, the actual growth rate of population is disturbingly high. Under these circumstances if we have to achieve a good economic growth, what is needed is to control the growth rate of population.

[*Translation*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that the Resolution moved by Dr. Bhoi is the most important of all the resolutions moved this year. The need of the hour is to control growth of population. It is our bad luck that people do not give a serious thought to this problem. As Shri Rath has pointed out just now, after the experience of 1977, people have become apprehensive that whichever political party or Government took initiative in this regard will land itself in trouble. In reality this is not the case. It is true that in some cases excesses were committed during 1975-1977 but the family planning programme was not responsible for it but the fault lay with the authorities responsible for its implementation who forced the people to undergo sterilisation operations. Now time has come to review the whole matter from a fresh perspective. I visited China one and a half

years ago. Representatives from all the Asian countries had gathered for a conference on population control which lasted for 5-6 days. I also participated in it and listened attentively to the entire proceedings. I felt that we can control population in our country without any difficulty. Asian countries are much better placed than many other countries. But I was thrilled to see that people in all the Asian countries with the exception of Bangladesh and Nepal were alive to the problem of population control. In fact they learnt a lesson from China. There is no doubt that in the beginning some sort of compulsion or force was used in China to control growth of population but at present, programme of population control in China is based on incentives and disincentives. One child norm has been adopted there. People who adopt this norm get numerous facilities from the Government, such as concessions in allotment of flat, etc. Privatisation is taking place in China also.....

16.00 hrs.

A small farm is given to them or some other facilities are provided to enable them to lead a better life. There is one more thing. Very much like our country, where the whole area is divided into various small blocks, in China the total area has been divided into small areas and a lady doctor has been appointed in each such area to detect the cases of conception in that particular area.

[MR. SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

She submits her report every month. She keeps a foolproof record to every couple in that area. In case of a couple in receipt of certain incentives from the Government, as soon as the lady doctor comes to know of fresh pregnancy, all the incentives are discontinued forth with. It serves as a warning to the other couples in the society. It may look quite odd to us but it has become an accepted practice there. As already stated, the growth rate of population in China has come down from 3 percent to 1.2 percent. Why can't it be done in our country? I think that strong determination is required for it. Many

measures were taken, huge sums have been spent to control population growth. But were the funds utilised properly and did the benefits actually reach the intended beneficiaries? I have myself visited many rural areas and have noticed many silly meaningless slogans based on 20 year old concept written with the caption 'Adopt Small Family Norm'. These have no effect.

As I said earlier also, the villagers consider our publicity about family planning as absurd. According to them family planning is meant for affluent people only, not for the poor. The publicity measures adopted for family planning in our country are not at all effective. Hundreds of people have complained to me that the advertisement on family planning telecast immediately after the news borders on indecency and cannot be seen with the whole family present, which is normally the case. It can be presented in another way. It will be still better if it is shown at late hours. There is yet another way. When I was in school life insurance was newly introduced in the country or perhaps nationalised. A very good advertisement used to appear in the newspapers. Two families used to be depicted, one of which went for life insurance and later the head of that family unfortunately died in an accident. The family was paid. One lakh rupees as insurance cover and they lived happily. But the other individual didn't get his life insured and he too died in an accident and his family was ruined. A similar advertisement depicting two families, one adopting family planning and the other not doing so may be shown on the T.V. with the disastrous consequences of not adopting family planning. This have the desired impact Tolstoy also said that if some thing was presented in the form of a story, it would have good effect. you give an advertisement which passes off without leaving an impression on the mind. Publicity is the biggest media available for making the family planning successful. Publicity is necessary to make the family planning effective. Fortunately, this media has become very powerful. Ten years ago it was not so powerful. In 1977 we had no such advantage. Today T.V. has reached every village.

Through T.V., we can educate the masses about the benefits of family planning. When we talk of population explosion, I am reminded of the population theory of Malthus. He said that if the population was not controlled, the nature will itself control it. there will be droughts, floods, riots and epidemics and the population will decrease. Today the same thing is happening Malthus also said that people would have to choose between having a child or a car. People should be educated that if they limit the size of their family, they can have a maruti car after 10-15 years, but if you will go on enlarging the size of your family, you may face disaster. This idea can be impressed upon the people. Now the structure of the society is changing. You may ask people belonging to any section of the society, he will admit that no child supports his parents. So this thinking is now changing that sons support his parents. So this thinking is now changing that sons support and look after their parents in old age. People don't believe it much. So, if they are educated that their old age will be successful and comfortable if they adopt family planning, people will certainly pay attention to it. This whole programme can become successful and you can achieve results without coercion. This problem can be solved, if half of the money spent on family planning programme, is spent on adult education. Even today, when there are no schools in the villages even for the boys, there is no question of girls' school. In the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana the Hon. Prime Minister has stated that there will be 30 per cent reservation for women. If this reservation policy is implemented everywhere, naturally the people will send their daughters to schools. I will suggest that education should be made free in the country from primary to graduation level and particularly in the rural areas, it should be made totally free. Family planning can not be successful until the girls are educated. They should be made to realise that it is their discretion to bear a child or not and it is no more the monopoly of the males. Only then, there can be change in thinking in the society. Our economic development will be stalled, if the population continued to grow like this.

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

The problem is a more serious than we think it to be. Kerala has been able to solve it to some extent, the main reason for which is the high rate of literacy among the women there. I don't want to take much time, but I will like to cite the example of a very good programme which I happened to see. Lot of water used to collect at a place and the residents suffered from malaria. The doctor said that it is not your fault, but the fault lies with the pit which breeds malaria mosquitoes, he advised the people that if they filled that pit, they could get rid of the disease. Thus the root cause of their poverty is their ignorance, due to which they go on producing children. The day people become conscious that they should stop producing children, economic progress and development will be assured.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of State for Family Welfare, because the publicity is more effective when it is done by someone who is not having children. Our hon. Chief Minister himself has 12 children. If he gives a call for adopting family planning, the people will say that he himself has got 12 children but he is advising others to have two children only. In such a case who can be motivated to adopt family planning. So I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister. (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, I would like to submit that those who talk of family planning should in the first instance adopt the programme themselves. A couple should not have more than two children. The Government servants who have more than 2 children should be dismissed. At present Government gives 2 increments to its employees who have only 2 children.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: The Chief Minister of your state is father of 12 children. In such circumstances should he continue on office as Chief Minister?

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: A person having more than 2 children should not be

allowed to contest elections.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: You should give this suggestion to them.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: The Government should first enact a law under which a person having more than 2 children could be denied all facilities like water, milk, electricity etc. As Dr. Rajhans pointed out that in China if a woman conceives for a second time, the Government stops giving all the facilities to her. A similar provision should be made in our country also.

It has been noticed that some people practise polygamy. In Hyderabad there is a family which consists of 100 members. We should stop such a practice. The Government should debar a person having more than 2 children from ration card facility and should see to it that the total number of members entered in the ration card should not exceed four. The Government should extend the provision of giving 2 increments to its employees having only 2 children in villages also. In some rural areas the Government gives Rs. 50/- only as incentive. This amount should be increased to some extent. I would again submit that those having more than 2 children should be denied all facilities.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: You should mention all these points in your manifesto.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: This is the malady. We simply want to stick to our seats and do not think about the welfare of our country seriously. If you make such a provision, we will follow suit. All the political parties should put their heads together and take a decision. Just now Shri Chavan submitted that Government is spending crores of rupees on various schemes. But it has been noticed that the poor are not being benefited. Despite all this people are still living below poverty line, the farmers are starving and the handloom weavers are dying. What is the reason behind this? We should control population and enact a law in this regard. We

have not been able to enact such a law apprehending religious backlash. That is why you say that it will be a personal attack. It is high time to consider this subject seriously. Different political parties must give a serious thought to it. If the Government does not enact such a law, water can not be made available in villages no matter how much expenditure is made, foodgrains will not be available and we will have to resort to import of foodgrains, ultimately posing a threat to the integrity and independence of the country. We should follow the example of China but we are afraid. As Shri Soz pointed out, this is compulsory in Indonesia. I do not know whether he is right or he wants me to tell the untruth but if there is such a law in other countries, we should not hesitate to enact such a law here. The facilities extended to the Government employees should be curtailed and this should be made compulsory for them. People not adopting it should be denied ration card and the supply of sugar, foodgrains, etc. People's Representation Act should be amended so as to debar a person having more than two children, from contesting elections, for all offices whether it be the membership of *Panchayat* or the office of *Sarpanch*. The present situation can be changed only by making such a provision. The Government is incurring huge expenditure on medicines and on adopting new devices but population continues to rise. Our country will not progress no matter any number of schemes are framed or any amount is spent. Our foodgrain production increased after 22 years but even today people are starving. The cause behind this is the ever increasing population. secondly, the mortality rate is decreasing and therefore the population is registering increase. I feel it is extremely essential to introduce a law in this regard and I, on behalf of my party, in this House or in the next one, will endeavour to extend our support for such a measure.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for this discussion?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: By how many hours?

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: By another three hours.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): By one hour, Sir.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: By a minimum of two hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One-and-a-half hours now. All right, let us extend the time for this discussion by one-and-a-half hours.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Prof. P. J. Kurien.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki): Sir, this subject is of paramount importance. I was thinking that if we were able to successfully implement the population control programme over the last forty years with the progress we have made in the agricultural, industrial and scientific sectors, this country would have been the most powerful country in the world in all respects. Whatever progress we have made whether in the agricultural sector or in the industrial sector or in the generation of employment, all of it perhaps has been made null and void by this population growth. Therefore, I find that the most important task before the Government is controlling the population. It is equally important or more important that poverty alleviation should be achieved. If we can control the population, automatically it leads to poverty alleviation. If we can control the population, this will automatically lead to reduction of unemployment. If we can control the population, the socio-economic progress is automatic. Therefore, the importance of this population control can in no way be under-estimated and for a country like India, it is very much important. China which was the country

[Prof. P.J. Kurien]

having the largest population in the world first boasted of its population, but later on, understood its folly and is now strictly implementing this population control programme. They are able to achieve the target which they have set, of course, by coercion.

With regard to population control, I agree to many of the points which have been raised by hon. my friend, Mr. Janga Reddy. I was thinking, why we are not able to achieve the target as far as population control is concerned. We are nowhere near the target set for ourselves. We wanted to reduce the growth rate to 1.87. Now, we are ranging between 2.11 and 2.12 growth rate. Except in Kerala, in all other State, we are not able to achieve the target. It is a failure with regard to the implementation of the family planning programme. I see two reasons for this. No. 1 is of course admitted by all of us—lack of concentration among the people. There is a strict religious sentiment of the people against population control. Socio-economic reasons are also there. Mr. Chairman, as you yourself have said while speaking on the resolution, people think that if they have more children, at the old age, they will be well taken care of. Such kind of notions are there. The basic question is, lack of concentration and there we have failed. Instead of taking bold steps to guide the people, as a nation, and correct the people, we are perhaps carried away by emotions. Here, I cannot but refer to what happened in 1977 during the Emergency period. Many people may have difference of opinion but I strongly feel that family planning programme implemented during the Emergency period with vigour, was the correct programme. The last Shri Sanjay Gandhi had initiated two main programmes for the masses—planting more trees and controlling the population. Sir, when you strictly implement any programme, there may be some failures. In family planning operations also, there may be some operations here and there which may be a failure. For any kind of programme, it happens. But for political reasons, those failures were highlighted and rumours were spread

about those failures and thereby the people were taken back over a decade with regard to family planning. During the period 1977-80, the family planning programme got a severe set back and perhaps nothing could be done. Why is it? This is because, we use such issues which are crucial to nation-building, for political advantage. I am not blaming the entire Opposition for this. But what happened in those important areas? It is the Janata party which made use of this issue for getting the votes. You are forgetting the fact that that is the most important programme to be implemented for the future generation. You should not forget that.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: The Janata Party was in favour of Family Planning. But was against force. Our Party is still in favour of it.

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: My CPM friends should not forget the fact that in China, the family planning was implemented with coercion. They should not forget it.

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: No, no. You do not know the real facts.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I will explain. Coercion does not mean that it is implemented with guns and force. If there is incentive and disincentive, that is coercion.

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is your view.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: That is my view.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is his view. You leave him. Please proceed.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: What I say is that such important national issues should not be politicalised. By politicising, we cannot achieve it. Therefore, all the parties should rise above party considerations and should

come forward for getting the consent of the people for implementation of such programme.

A number of steps should be taken in this regard in our colleges and schools. I am of the opinion that the importance of family planning is related to the development of the country and to the future progress of the country. It should be taught in our schools and colleges. That is my opinion. In addition to Government agencies, all voluntary organisations which are prepared to come forward to assist in this task of taking the consent of the people, should be encouraged. A massive effort should be made in this regard. As Mr. Janga Reddy has said we must show the seriousness of the project. On one side, we do nothing for getting the consent of the people and, on the other side, people do not feel that we ourselves are serious about it. Actually, we are not serious.

Those who propagate the family planning and family welfare schemes themselves have more than half-a-dozen children. All political leaders, one Chief Minister and the M.Ps have more children.

Ministers also have more children.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: But, that does not mean that one should remain unmarried. It is not fair.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: People do not take it seriously. Therefore, on the other side, we should show seriousness to this family control programme. How can we show this seriousness? First, all the machinery for implementing it, all the Government officials should be made to implement it and they should be a model with regard to family planning. The Government should do something for that. Government should either by incentive or disincentive or by enacting law, should see that all officials who implement family planning stick to this norm because it is given national priority.

I agree with Mr. Janga Reddy that there is no harm even if we enact a law that those

who contest election should have adopted family planning of two children and not more than that. Therefore, what is most important, according to me, is to show seriousness on the part of the Government, the political leaders and implementing officials regarding family planning. Unfortunately, it is not seen.

I must congratulate the Minister here. She is the best example for implementing family planning. Therefore, she is the most competent to be the Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. I must congratulate her. I wish the hon. Minister a long life in this Ministry.

Another thing is that Education, Family Planning, Population Control, Development, Environment control are all inter-related. In our system of education, in the ordinary curriculum none of such important subjects finds a place. We teach Physics, Chemistry, English or Hindi etc. and get away. Our children, our youth coming out of the high schools and colleges have no idea about all these things. If these subjects are included in the curriculum, the students will get some idea about all these things and they will feel how they are related with the development of the country. In our country there are lakhs of unemployed youth. These unemployed youth should be used, their services should be utilised and they should be motivated in this regard. What I suggest is that the unemployed youth in each village should be called and a few of them, who could be used as good motivators, could be selected. I am not saying that the Government should do it. The Government can do it. The political parties can do it. All the voluntary organisations can do it. There are several reputed voluntary organisations in this country. They can do it. The only thing is that the Government should give them some assistance. The Government should find out the motivators in each village from among the unemployed youth. Now, only the Government officials who get salary only go to the couple and request them to adopt family planning. They do not take it seriously. I would suggest that in addition to the Government officials, the

[Prof. P.J. Kurien]

unemployed youth or motivators should be made to go to the villages and visit the houses to persuade the people to adopt family planning. Such youth should be allotted a fixed number of houses. Such a scheme should be drawn up for the whole country using the services of the unemployed youth and voluntary organisations. If we can think about it, we can do a lot more. Of course, we can do this with the assistance of all political parties. Therefore, if the Government can think about it, I am sure that this family planning programme will come out of this Governmental mould and it will give them a popular programme. Only by making it a popular programme with the support of all political parties and also with the full consent of the people with regard to the family planning, we can achieve the target in this regard. The Government should also show a little more seriousness with regard to this problem.

With these words, I support the Resolution moved by Dr. Bhoi.

SHRINITYANANDA MISRA (Bolangir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset let me thank my good friend Dr. Bhoi for giving us opportunity to participate in the discussion on a subject which is so crucial and vitally important to our country. Population explosion has assumed a very serious proposition and if this rate of increase in population is not curbed and effective methods are not taken, then we shall be facing the problem of a greater magnitude which will stand in the way of community development of our country. Our rate of increase is considerably high. It is probably of the order of 2.25. We have observed this phenomenon of population explosion with the birth rate remaining constant. But the mortality figures have considerably gone down. At the beginning of the century, the birth rate was pretty high but because of the mortality figure was also at a high level, the rate of increase in population was zero point (0..) something. But now we are facing this explosion because the mortality figures have considerably come down.

After the achievement of Independence, we have extended more medical facilities. There are more number of health care centres, more of hospitals, more of dispensaries which are providing medical facilities. We do not find breaking out of epidemics which used to play havoc in the past. We also find that infant mortality has come down considerably. If the rate of increase is not controlled, then probably, by the turn of the century, we shall reach in the neighbourhood of one billion mark which is considerably a high figure.

We know, nature has its own way of limiting the population when all our conscious and deliberate action fail and when we do not take measures for controlling it. But these methods of nature are very primitive. As for example, when the population goes up very high and our food production does not increase correspondingly, then there will be starvation and famine which will play havoc to human life. And the famine of 1942-43 is still fresh in our mind where nearly 25 lakhs of people died. But one thing will happen. Our standard of living will not go up. Death rate may be reduced; mortality figures may be reduced. But if the birth rate remains constant, then our standard of living, the quality of life and the basic amenities and facilities which are provided to citizens will be considerably reduced. And it will create economic problems which will be of a great magnitude for our country.

Ours is an agricultural economy. A farmer in the village considers that any addition to the family is not a heavy burden on him because when the standard of living is low the expenditure incurred on the addition of family is also not much. And when he attains the age of going to school or even, when he is studying in school, he can render some service in the farms also. We find that sons and daughters of farmers help their parents in the farms and in the agricultural land instead of going to schools. And there is an addition to the family income. And they have a sense of security when in the family, there are more number of boys who they consider, will be the earning members of the

family and will add to the economic stability of the economy. That is the reason why the farmers in the countryside, whose standard of living is not very high, are not averse to any addition in the family.

Secondly, there are social inhibitions also which stand in the way of family planning. In the villages, in the rural areas, uneducated people think that male members, if born into the family, are a source of strength and stability to the family because they will become earning members. Even if they have daughters they think that the next issue may be a boy. Even if they get two-three daughters, they always want a boy to be born. A mother who has two-three sons is extremely proud and is very happy. The villagers also hold her in very high esteem as a mother of two-three or more sons. This inhibition also militates against population control in a very big way.

Then there are religious inhibitions also. We feel that when a son is born to the family he will perform religious rights which are traditionally done and which are indispensable for the religious life of the family. The parents think that the boy who is born to the family will perform Shradha ceremony so that their souls may go to the heaven. We find that the religious inhibition, orthodoxy and the traditional ideas also go against the population control.

Now we shall have to take a decision whether we shall allow these religious ideas, inhibitions and social customs to come in the way of population control. We shall have to take a very drastic and categorical decision on this matter.

The solution is the spread of education. If there is spread of rational and scientific education, if the people in the rural areas are educated, then they will understand their own responsibility, limit the size of the family and bring population under control. Therefore the spread of education will play a very vital and crucial role in creating a consciousness or responsibility and awareness of their responsibility to limit their family size.

As my friend has already pointed out, when women go in for higher education they cross the age of fertility, that is from 15 to 25 which is the best child bearing stage of a woman. This is one of the reasons why population control has succeeded in Kerala; the reason being that the ladies there go in for higher education. That should also be encouraged.

The Government is giving maximum thrust and importance to this programme. Sufficient amount of resources is also being allocated for family planning programme. But what is needed is not only extending facilities for family planning for sterilisation and other methods in the hospitals and dispensaries; but to create a psychological climate and atmosphere in which every citizen of the country will be conscious of his responsibility in this matter. Sufficient motivation must also be provided so that he will accept it and go in for it.

In China nearly 70% of the married women have accepted family planning methods and one child norm whereas the figure in our country is 35. So it is absolutely necessary that there must be some publicity campaign and publicity offensive so that the people will understand their responsibility in this matter and specially when it concerns his own family. Of course the country's most difficult problems can be solved, economic problems can be solved. The country has passed through economic development and prosperity in the last four decades. But this prosperity is not profitable because our population has grown by geometrical progression. Therefore, it should be made clear to every citizen of this country that it will not only solve the problem of the entire country but also the family problem, with which we are so deeply concerned. If they want to get all the basic needs of human subsistence, if they want more facilities for a better and comfortable life, it is absolutely necessary that there must be family control.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi has put-forth before the House, a very good

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

Resolution and I can give him qualified support because here and there I find areas of disagreement. But so far as this country is concerned, the population has to be controlled.

My friends on the other side seem to be economists because they remembered Malthus and Malthusian formula of geometrical progression of people and arithmetical progression of resources. He painted a very bleak picture. Malthus is no more. But if he were alive, he would be surprised to know how India with its large population continues to live as a viable country. Despite this sizeable population, we have made so much progress. But Malthus would be surprised. Whatever Malthus said may not be totally relevant today because we have some resources. We have not exploited the resources. In future, the picture which Malthus has painted will appear to be very true because we are exhausting our resources and as Shri Misra was rightly saying whatever development we have made, it was eaten away by the addition to our population. While I disagree, the area of agreement is there. We have a very large population which we cannot sustain; it must be controlled.

I want population control through positive norms, not through negative norms. I do not want any punishment to be given, because India is different from China. For those who have quoted the example of China, I will tell a Writer-David Salborne. He wrote two books. One is '*An Eye to India*' and the other is '*An Eye to China*'. He is as much enamoured by the standards of Chinese, as my friends; but China has a different model of society; different model of governance. India continues to be deeply religious. Although I agree with Mr. David Salborne when he depicts two pictures, China's picture is very pleasing. In India lot of people waste lot of time; they are not perfect. But in China, he said, they do not waste time; they are conscious of their duties. He had painted a very good picture of China. But when I compare the two situations I feel in India we shall have

to adopt a different model than China. Here and there we can learn a lesson from China. For instance, in China the experts would sit with the labourers in the factories. It is not that they would have one minute programme on television. Somebody suggested that there should be stories put on the television. That is a good method. In China it is an organised attempt. Ten thousand labourers will be sitting before you and you would show a film and then you would tell them as to what was the standard of living in China and the problems faced by it in Defence, Economic Development, etc. Then they would tell the labourers what design of life they like to have on some future date. These experts would spend hours together with the labourers in the factory. There would be dialogue and question and answer sessions. Our doctors who go to the rural sector go there half-heartedly. In fact, there are so many laudable schemes which the Government has floated but there is lot of wastage. If we only solve the problem of wastage in India quality of life here will be far more decent than what it is today. There is terrible wastage of resources. Our doctors go there half-heartedly. As such the family planning units are not viable units. Since you do not utilise investments properly and sell the ideas properly to the people you come to negative norms of ordering one child and one will be punished if there are more children. This will not work in India. If you convince them that family planning is a must and that on the turn of the century we will be a billion then they will take notice of that. You should have a dialogue with the people on positive lines.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that there is a vicious circle of poverty, ignorance and superstition. You go from one situation to the other. You are caught in the vicious circle. That vicious circle has to be broken. Ignorance, poverty and superstition will have to be fought out. An hon. Member was referring to religion. What most of us practise is not real religion. Perhaps many things which constitute superstition gain currency in the name of religion.

Then there is positive incentive. Dr.

Rajhans said that education should be made free for girls. I support it. In my State one of the things that Sheikh Sahib and his colleagues did was that education was made free for everybody from primary to Ph D level. You can say girls should have priority but over a period of time you have to see that education is made free for everybody. Perhaps medical care and education both should be made free in India.

Then, Sir, recently I attended a workshop on population at Hyderabad. It was organised by the National Institute of Rural Development. There the Director General, Mr. Kapoor was to deliver a lecture on population dynamics.

17.00 hrs.

I was surprised by the picture presented by Mr. Kapur at Hyderabad. My suggestion is that he must go to the States and must show us the areas which require pointed attention. For the first time, I was surprised and the same way said by Dr. Bhoi also.

The graphs and transparencies which he showed us proved that the situation is horrible in the Hindi belt comprising UP, Bihar, MP and Rajasthan. The population growth in the Hindi belt is 2.9 per cent. He raised pointed questions. We have no doubt that what he said was correct. The statistics which he presented was not theoretical jargon. Therefore, I feel that pointed attention should be given to the Hindi belt. I support the spirit of this Resolution presented by Dr. Bhoi. The reasons for the population growth in the Hindi belt must be known. Actually we must have the feedback because the largest chunk of population in India is in the Hindi belt. UP is the biggest State with a population of 13 crores. This is the largest chunk of population in India. Population growth is the highest. In fact, I do not know the reasons for this. They must be known to the hon. Minister. When she replies, perhaps next week, she must be able to answer as to what is the problem and why the family planning programme has failed to the Hindi belt which has the largest chunk of population in India.

Pointed attention should be paid to this aspect. I differ with my friend on one point. He has suggested a common civil code. I can say that the Constitution of India has wanted us to consider the situation. Here also there should be exchange of ideas and there should be no coercion. In this, there are so many matters in which we can have civil code. But if you want civil code to be brought in marriage, it will create great tensions. This is something controversial. We must discuss and debate this problem. Of course, Parliament is the supreme body to decide on this. It is better that this issue should be raised here but when we decide, we must spend lot of time and come to details. Perhaps my apprehension is that marriage is a question which is part of personal law. How can we bring marriage in this. But there are so many areas where we can have a common civil code for everybody. The rest of the Resolution is very much balanced. I am giving my support in one more aspect. He wants to develop ayurvedic medicine which is useful. Why can't we accept his suggestion? The hon. Minister should consider this suggestion. Ayurvedic Medical College and research Centre at Narsinghanath should be helped and strengthened. In fact, we have very rich herbal medicines. We must not bank only on the allopathic medicines. We must also promote unani and ayurvedic medicines. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

* SHRI SRIHARI RAO (Rajahmundry): Mr. Chairman, Sir, population control is essential for removal of poverty in the country. Various measures have to be taken to arrest the population growth. The Government should accord topmost priority for the family welfare programme.

Sir, the implementation of family planning programme is quite defective at present. Both the husband and the wife are being operated on in an anxiety to show a record of better performance. Such a method will boomerang on the entire programme itself. It is not essential for the wife to undergo opera-

[Sh. Shrihari Rao]

tion if the husband is already operated on. Similarly husband need not undergo operation if his wife undergoes an operation. Hence this efforts to operate both husband and wife in order to blow up figures should be given up forthwith.

Sir, more than 50% of our population is below poverty line. More than 67% of the increase in the population comes from the people who are below poverty line. 33% of our population growth comes from the persons who are above the poverty line. It all shows that the growth of population is more among the poor. Hence family welfare schemes should be more directed towards this section of population. Like various other schemes which are meant for the upliftment of these people, special welfare programmes should be launched among these poorest of the poor section. This programme should be made compulsory for all those who happen to be the beneficiaries of various welfare programmes. This way, they can be rather cajoled to adopt small family norm. Otherwise, by sheer compulsion, and compulsion alone, this family planning programme cannot succeed. More intensives should be offered to the poor, so that they can get attracted towards this programme. To adopt the family planning should be made compulsory for all those who want to receive benefits under various Government sponsored schemes. Mere coercion will not help the cause. More and more intensives should be offered to them. This method will give a boost to the family planning programme.

Sir, the role of education is controlling population is no less important. There should be a compulsory education in the country. When everyone in the country is educated, be men or women, they will have a better understanding of themselves and their country. They would come forward to adopt small family norm on their own volition. Hence compulsory education is more important than the compulsory family planning. The literate with better grasp of circumstances, would contribute to the success of the programme

Sir, Population growth contributes to the growth of various socio economic problems. The shortage of drinking water will become more acute. There will be housing problem. House sites problems will also mount up and of course of top it all, there will be the problem of providing food. There will be problems Like sanitation, cloth etc. Hence it will be problems and problems everywhere. The life of the poor become a more miserable. Hence to control population means to solve the various socio-economic problems.

People belonging to middle and rich sections of our society are voluntarily coming forward to adopt family planning. They are adopting small family norm, not just because of the Government's publicity over radio and T.V., but because they are more worried about their economic status and their wealth. They feel that their wealth will shrink if they do not adopt family planning. The success of the programme among these sections is not due to the efforts of the Government. The media is quite ineffective is persist the poor people to go for operation and undergo operation again to get some benefits. Also the persons who are not in fertility age group are getting operated for the sake of some benefits. It is a matter of truth.

The present methods have completely failed to effectively implement the family planning programme. It is now time to go for some new and novel methods to make the programme a success. Sir, the Government can reach through T.V. and Radio, only a small section of rich people. Poor people in the country can not afford to have a T.V. and hence all the publicity programmes on T.V. are confined only to a very limited section of our society. Hence it is time to think of some other methods by which we can hope to reach everyone, however poor he may be. Sir, everyone knows that Cinema still remains an attraction for the poor. It still remains as main entertainment for them. Wealthy people sit in their rooms and watch the movies on T.V. as they can afford to get cassettes of new films. But poor people still visit theaters for watching a movie. hence a documentary on family planning can be

shown either at the start of the picture or during the interval. This way masses can be a better educated about the programme. This will help in the success of the programme. Hence I suggest to the Government to make efforts in this direction soon. The change of methods and adoption of new methods like the one suggested above is imperative now.

The present educational system should also undergo a change. Students, by the time they come out of their colleges and enter free world, should be aware of the benefits of a small family. Family Welfare education should be an integral part of our education system. By the time they come out of colleges, they will be ready for marriage and hence their knowledge about the family welfare will help them in planning of their family and life successfully. They should have a better grasp of the position of the country. They should be educated in such a way as to realise the dangers of population growth. They should know that economy of the country is dependent on the population. Similarly compulsory education must be adopted to educate the poor in the villages. This compulsory education in our rural areas would help in effectively controlling the population. Various new methods have to be adopted to control the population especially among the poor. 67% of the growth in population is contributed by just 50% of the population who are below poverty line. Hence before I conclude, once again request the Government to consider this problem very seriously and take various measures to counter the population growth.

With these observations, I conclude my speech thanking you for the opportunity you had given me to speak.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Mr. Chairman, sir, I would like to congratulate Dr. Bhoi for moving such a good resolution in the House.

The population of our country in the pre-independence era was nearly 35 crore but

now this has swelled to 80 crore. It has become a very serious problem for our country as to how to control the growth of population. A lot of research has been done in this field and the allopathic doctors have also done a lot to educate the villagers in family planning. This has helped to a considerable extent. A number of States have achieved their respective targets due to which our country has been benefited a great deal otherwise our population would have crossed one billion.

During the emergency large number of people were sterilised and people have now started feeling our country has been highly benefited by it. The late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Manoj Gandhi had launched a campaign to plant maximum number of trees and to adopt family planning so as to strengthen the nation and provide relief to the people of our country. After careful consideration a national programme was chalked out for implementation but some people, who wanted to sabotage this programme, misled the masses and tried to pressurise us to abandon this programme. Opposition parties formed Government in a number of States and a propanganda was launched among the youth and the school-going children that this programme was aimed at ruining their health. They asked the masses to carry the message that the Government is formulating this programme to ruin the future generation. Such an absurd propanganda was carried on by the Opposition but it was our good fortune that that Government disintegrated after two-and-a-half years at their own. I would like to call the step taken by our Government as appreciable because the people felt that their resentment was aroused to gain momentary benefit and to exploit the masses. This programme was introduced because it is good for the welfare of the country. It was reflected in the fall in growth rate of the population. Government first have a call for 3 child family norm, which was later reduced to 2 and now Dr. Bhoi has brought it down to only one. Now we have to educate the masses that keeping in view the interest of our nation, its development and progress, one child is

[Sh. K.D. Sulatanpuri]

enough. I congratulate you for suggesting this approach.

So far as research is concerned, a lot of research has been done in this field. He has made a tremendous contribution towards national development. I want to mention two points. As regards Ayurveda, Dr. Bhoi has set up the Narsing Nath Institute in Orissa. I congratulate him for this. I request the Central Government to give financial assistance to such institutions, so that they could function in a smooth manner. Indians have an inclination towards herbal treatment for diseases. They find the Ayurvedic system of medicine very satisfactory and effective. People in villages shy away from injections fearing that the painful process may even result in their death. Therefore, we must promote Ayurveda which is an age-old system of medicine. I request the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to give all possible help to such institutions.

I feel that the size of the budget for family planning should be bigger. Action should be taken against State Government which fail to achieve family planning targets. Funds earmarked for family planning should not be diverted to any other work. Funds given to Haryana for the family planning programme were used for other purposes. Action should be taken against Chief Ministers who visit other States and claim that the initiative for family planning programme has come from their Government rather than from the Central Government. Action should be taken against Chief Ministers who indulge in such misuse of money belonging to the public exchequer. There should be some sort of a check on Chief Ministers who believe that denigrating the programmes of the Central Government would enhance their political image. This tendency among some Chief Ministers to project themselves as 'do-gooders' and the rest as 'good-for nothing' is something that the Centre has to curb.

Regarding education, there are many

schools, colleges and other educational institutions in the country, but it is very difficult to get admissions into them. Children going to schools in villages do not have even jute matting to sit on. It is necessary for the opposition to realize that our nation can make progress only when there is greater awareness about the family planning and we all extend our full co-operation is making it a success.

There should also be a provision in respect of targets set by State Governments for setting up of primary health centres and sub-centres. A jeep should be provided to doctors over there to facilitate their movement over a large area. Hospitals have been set up but they lack adequate number of beds, medicines and X-Ray facilities. The Central Government should venture to provide only such facilities as are within its capacity. If the States are unable to make proper use of those facilities, it would be wrong on their part. Similarly it would be wrong to divert funds meant for a specific purpose to some other channel. It would, in fact, be a crime to do so because we are, in essence, playing with the lives of the people by not providing them medical facilities. Therefore, I would say that this is an issue that should be looked into in all seriousness. In areas where centres have been opened, there should be housing facilities for doctors, nurses and compounders. This will encourage doctors and para-medical staff to serve in rural areas making the family planning programme more effective in the process. I would say that the country's economic condition is getting weaker. The situation could get worse if the country's population keeps growing at the present rate. People in every sphere, be it in factories, in Government services or in politics, are finding it increasingly difficult to sustain themselves and their families. To strengthen the country's economy, we have two options before us either increase facilities for people and abandon family planning or take up family planning with renewed vigours for this, we must have a bigger budget for the family planning programme and, of course, a greater amount of dedication towards making it a success. Our

hon. Prime Minister has spoken of delegating authority down to the Panchayat level. The Panchayats should be made responsible for this. Under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, no less than Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1 lakh will be given to the Panchayats. Similarly, funds for the family planning programme should also be given to panchayats.

A survey should be conducted to assess the performance of the family planning programme in villages. A Panchayat showing cent percent results should be encouraged through awards and other incentives. A block or tehsil which has adopted family planning should be placed in a special category. The Centre sanctions the funds to States, but it is well known as to how those targets are achieved. The point mentioned by an hon. Member of the Opposition is entirely true. As mentioned by the hon. Member, there is a need to look into family planning operations. It has come to our notice that even after a man or woman has been operated upon, there have been addition to the family. The reason for this is the slipshod manner in which operations are done. We must ensure that such cases do not recur if we are to promote the family planning programme. Adequate medical facilities should be provided if any male or female happens to fall sick in the post-operative period as the rural women or the rural labourers do not have money to spend on treatment.

I have had the opportunity to speak on this very good Resolution moved by Dr. Bhoi. I feel that this Resolution should be adopted by the Government after due consideration.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal):
Mr. Chairman, Sir: First of all, I would like to congratulate Dr. Kripasindhu Bhoi for bringing such a comprehensive Resolution on such a vital and crucial issue, specially in the highest legislative forum of the largest democracy in the world.

So, this is not only a question of population explosion. We have been hearing about, and feeling concerned about various explosion—like implosion, explosions and the nuclear explosion; but I think this population explosion is as serious as nuclear explosion, and it is very crucial.

It is not what I alone am saying. I would like to quote from a publication by the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. This is what Shrimati Indira Gandhi has to say on the 14th October 1981:

"The process of economic development is bound to slow down if population grows unchecked. The fruits of progress and limited resources have then to be stretched among an ever-increasing number. No one gets enough, when everyone, should be getting more. The country suffers; so does the individual, and most of all the children. The small family norm must be a high-priority goal; and family planning should become part of a people' movement for a better tomorrow.

My good wishes to "National Survival" which, I hope, will bring about greater involvement of parliamentarians and legislators in this cause."

Sir, Mrs. Gandhi has thought that the question of population, and limitation of population and population control is a question of national survival.

Now, in his comprehensive Resolution, Dr. Bhoi has mentioned about evolving a national consensus for acceptance of one child norm, as well as other things and also for a uniform civil code for all citizens and the National Population Commission. I hope Dr. Bhoi, when he moved this Resolution, wanted to make this effective with prospective effect. Otherwise, most of us, with the exception of the hon. Minister, would be disquali-

[Sh. K.P. Singh Deo]

fied to speak or comment on this Resolution. Mrs. Gandhi once again had said:

"If there is any one issue on which a national consensus is most urgent, it is surely family planning."

Apart from a question of population and development, which Dr. Bhoi has sought to raise in this House, it is also a question of national survival, as has been pointed by our late Prime Minister. So, there are various challenges before us, challenges on humanitarian ground, on biological ground, on medical ground, on scientific ground, on psychological ground, as some members pointed out, because it is a question of an attitude of mind, legislative, legal as well as cultural grounds.

Ours is a vast country; in fact, it is a sub-continent with various geographical regions, geological regions, culture, traditions, religions, languages and various traditions which have been followed since time immemorial over the last 5000 years. Therefore, on education, motivation and communication what the Government wants to do and what they expect the people to do, if we want to evolve a national consensus, if we want to evolve a national commitment a movement of the people, by the people, for the people, then we shall have to carry them with us. It is not a question whether it is a married couple or an unmarried couple; whether they are under the age of fertility or passed the age of fertility; it is a question of the citizens, the people of this country, who have certain rights and privileges under the Constitution; they must also have responsibility and accountability to the nation; and this question of population explosion is vital for national survival. In my humble opinion, this has to be tackled in a manner in which the preventive, curative and punitive aspects—although my hon. friend, Prof. Soz does not agree on punitivespacing, incentive, disincentive have to be ensured punishment and reward which have been followed down from time immeorial and which still exist in various organisa-

tions which maintain a high sense of discipline and all these aspects have to be tackled.

Reward and punishment, accountability and responsibility along with privileges must go hand in hand. Sir, I would have been happier if Dr. Bhoi had also mentioned the question of tribals, Tribals are a segment of the society which are in the periphery of development; they have their own culture; they have a different society and they suffer from various exposures of their tribal rules, tribal customs where hygiene, sanitation and mal-nutrition take its toll on them as well as the orthodoxy which an hon. member was mentioning before me. There is also another segment of society, the handicapped. There are five million handicapped people or maybe more. I can only quote from the papers. I do not have the facts and figures. But there are deaf, blind and mute people who number three per cent of our population. I shall come to it later. They are people whom this Resolution does not specify.

If one really analyses Dr. Bhoi's Resolution, one can see that with the addition of a little over 15 million population every year since 1981, India's population according to the National Register and the Population Clock which has been installed in Bombay, had reached—it has already recorded—800 million which come to 27 per cent of Asia's population and 16 per cent of the world's population. and this is going to reach about 1000 million by 2000 AD and 1.2 billion by 2025. This voluminous increase in population is a result of the large reproductive base which is created as a consequence of the declining death rate and also the failure of the birth rate to decline correspondingly. Now, what is the effect? What are the serious consequences on the availability of the basis requirements of life which we are pledged to provide our people?

The data, or the figures are interesting. I quote:

"According to one estimate, the daily requirements to meet the growing

needs population are —63,000 houses, 6,750 tons of foodgrains, 9,700 jobs, 4,60,000 metres of cloth, 360 schools and 1,000 teachers.”

This is the total requirement! Therefore, the planners and policy makers have to ponder about this aspect. Because we as a country probably have the highest number of youth in the world and a population between the age group of 15 to 59 which is the working population and which contributes to 54 per cent of the population as of today, which will be 63 per cent in 2000 AD and it will be more than 70 per cent by 2025. This will have serious effects on the job requirements in the country.

Then there is a question of high level of mortality and morbidity, and we have heard the discrimination shown to girls and the high morbidity and high mortality rates, amongst them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: You will have to bear with me; I have got lot of facts and figures to mention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, be brief.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I cannot be brief. This is a very crucial question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: The mortality rate is 95 per thousand live births which is considered very high and added to malnutrition, and infection due to poor environmental sanitation and personal hygiene, in spite of the fact that we have a Universal Immunisation Programme which has been started in a big way. But the fact still remains that we have a very high birth rate, and also the very fact that the rapid growth of population has also led to environmental degradation, acute housing shortage, creation of slums and shanty towns. So much so today, Calcutta and Delhi are considered to be one of the worst polluted cities in the world.

And once again, I would like to quote our late Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi in the same pamphlet:-

“2000 AD will see the 25 largest cities located in developing countries.”

All over Asia the need to limit our population so that the impact of development can reach all sections is widely recognised, But schemes for smaller families can succeed only when the general masses of the people participate actively in their implementation. Unfortunately, we do not have much time.

The initial stages of development have themselves contributed to population growth with the expansion of better medical facilities and rising life expectancy. Developing countries, constrained by the scarcity of financial resources find the benefits of some of their most splendid achievements diluted by the growing tide.

According to one estimate, the year 2000 AD will see the 25 largest cities in the world located in the developing countries. Without massive expansion of urban facilities and greater prosperity, these cities will become monsters feeding on their own inhabitants.”

What does she advise us?

“Population control and rural development can head off this crisis.”

Now let us take a look at the acceleration in the rate of population growth in our economic development and how our policy has been dovetailed to tackle the situation. The acceleration in the rate of population growth started in 1951. And it was realised by our founding fathers of modern India that a population policy has to be formulated and part of developmental planning. It was done from the First Five Year Plan with the meagre

[Sh. K.P. Singh Deo]

resources of Rs. 65 lakhs and in the present Plan it is Rs. 3,356 crores—I am subject to correction.

The population increased at an average annual growth rate of 1.96 per cent per annum during 1951-61 against the Planning Commission's assumption of 1.25 per cent. The results of the 1971 Census were even more shocking. The growth rate was 2.24 per cent. And the 1981 Census—I do not want to attribute the reasons to anybody sitting opposite—it was staggering at 2.28 per cent during the decade 1971-1981.

Sir, India's age structure shows a very heavy preponderance of younger age population in the age group below 14 years. It was 37.5 per cent in 1951, which increased to 41.1 per cent in 1961 and further increased to 42 per cent in 1971. But it has, however, come down to 39.6 per cent in 1981 and it is expected to be 35.6 per cent in 1991. This reflects the slow pace of decline in birth rate compared to faster pace of decline in death rate.

If one takes a close look at the demographic parameters, one of the components of natural increase in population, namely, the birth rate, has stuck to 33 over the last decade. Indian rural woman bears, on an average, 4.8 children, which is as high as 6.2 in U.P. and 6 in Bihar and Rajasthan. The age structure of the currently married females in the population is also very high. There were 94 million couples in the reproductive age span in 1971, which increased to 116 million in 1981, and is expected to be 135 million as of date. Out of this, nearly 12 per cent of the couples age in the age group between 15 and 19 years, although the age at marriage which was 17.2 years in 1971, it has increased to 18.3 years in 1981. Still it is a staggering figure, which indicates, legislation alone does not ensure that legislation is always followed.

The infant mortality rate is also quite high, 107 in rural areas. In U.P., it is as high

as 154, in Orissa 137, in M.P. 131 and in Rajasthan 114. As I mentioned earlier, some of the States like Orissa, Bihar, U.P., Rajasthan, M.P. have a high preponderance of tribal population.

Now if you take a look at the development performance in our economy of the last four decades as against the population growth, our economy has become more diversified, agriculture has become more resilient and less vulnerable to monsoon and bad weather. The Gross Domestic Product has increased nearly three fold, three and a half times since 1950-51. The Net National Product has a linear growth rate of 5.6 per cent per annum during the period between 1974-75 and 1984-85 as compared to 3.7 per cent in the previous ten years from 1964-65 to 1974-75. The gross domestic saving has increased from 10 per cent in 1950-51 to 24 per cent as on data and is likely to increase by the end of the Plan period. In this, the household sector has always contributed a major share. The share of agriculture and allied sector which was nearly three-fifth in 1950-51 has come down to even less than two-fifth in 1984-85. It shows that the industry has also been contributing to the national GDP. But at the same time, employment has not increased, In fact, unemployment has increased from 18 million to 24 million.

The reasons why I am giving these data and figures are that at a time when we are increasing our self-sufficiency in agriculture, industry, petroleum, electricity generation, still the per capita availability is less than the subsistence level. It is not only the problem of India but also the problem of Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other SAARC countries. Therefore, like we have, in the past, put our heads together on nuclear issues and other issues which have been confronting geo-strategic and geo-political issues, I am sure, this is a problem which in importance and in severity is as bad or if not as serious as the nuclear problem and that of disarmament and detente.

I would like to conclude by saying that

today when there is such a serious discussion on such a crucial subject, we only have the hon. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare present. This needs systems approach. It is not the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which is alone responsible. But so far the onus has been kept on this Ministry. Neither are they properly equipped nor staffed nor is there any staff to go about in rural areas motivating people. Sometimes, they have to use police; sometimes, they get the help of Revenue officials. So what I am advocating and suggesting with all the emphasis at my command is the need to have a systems approach where not only all the governmental agencies but also religious, political and cultural leaders, leaders of society must be brought together and evolve a consensus so that the points raised by Dr. Bhoi in his Resolution can be met.

Some very good suggestions have been given by Dr. Bhoi like de-bureaucratisation of family welfare and immunisation programme, effort to motivate girls and women, women to take a lead into this. I would like to add here the role of ex-servicemen. There are 35 lakh ex-service men highly trained, disciplined and motivated. Some of them are from the Army Medical Corp, who are in the rural areas, Even their help can be taken. The Central Government could help institutions like the one which Dr. Bhoi has established i.e. Biomedical Research Centre near Narsingnath, so that they also become the Centres of Research and Study on the subject.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): I rise to support the Resolution that has been brought by Dr. Bhoi. Like all my friends, I also agree that somehow the population of this country should be controlled. In this country and in the history of human beings we have seen that several methods were adopted. In Mahabharata when some people did not want Bhishma Pitamaha to have children and progeny, they persuaded him not to get married. Subsequently we know the artificial methods that were used by the Greek and Roman people for family control.

Then, we come down to Malthus who proposed a new theory of mathematical progression that the population grows in a geometrical progression and the resources grow only in arithmetical progression.

After that we have also seen the great debate throughout the world, which was initiated by Sangers and, I think, Stopes, the two great ladies. It was opposed in our country by Mahatma Gandhi and he pleaded that celibacy should be observed. But, Sir, we have to be realistic that it is not possible for every human being to observe celibacy. So, some practical solution had to be brought out and that exactly has been done by the Government of India. Though the leadership, including Nehru ji, did not agree, before Independence, for population control, still in this country there were voluntary organisations which were led by Karve, Lady Rama Rao, Tata and others, who pleaded for family control. In the First Plan we did provide money for this and now also we are thinking about it. So, what I want to bring to the notice of this House is that if you think that just by fixing the targets of operations you are going to achieve much, you are mistaken. I was told by a lady doctor in Mathura that for heaven's sake do not go on operating those men and women who are of no help to your cause. You have to see whether they are in the reproductive age. If they are not, then who do you operate them? Is it just to fulfil the target? Instead of operating upon them, if you distribute that money to other women, may be those women will come forward and get themselves operated, or their men may send them to you for operation. J.R.D. Tata has suggested that minimum Rs. 5,000 should be paid to these people as an incentive. I want to know whether we have increased the incentive that the Government of India and the State Governments have been giving for the last five or six years. If not, why can't we give something more than that because that is the thing which is very close to human mind and human need.

I am really surprised when some of my friends say that poverty is due to population explosion. I do not agree to that. This is not

[Sh. Uttam Rathod]

the main reason. The main reason is that we have failed on many fronts and one of them is the fiscal front. We should not have allowed the people to a mass money so that other people were not deprived of it. If we just stop this, if cornering of money after a certain extent is stopped, I am sure it will help family planning in a big way.

Today, I feel that apart from the methods which I have suggested, if we have education for men and women, that will definitely help. I feel that there is no need to go back. Some people have appreciated the Chinese way. I remember, long back I had read an article by Mrs. Seth who happened to be in China because of her husband's service there. What she said was that crude methods were adopted in China. For Indian imagination, it was very vulgar, but they were adopted. Of course, we may not be able to go to that extent but some such things should be done. The thinking of the people should also be influenced. Imagine that in his country, we the Hindus are told that there are thirty-three crore gods. When a girl is married, she is blessed '*Ashtaputra saubhagya-wati*'. I think Madam would be knowing it that this is very common in Maharashtra. We bless her saying '*tum ko aath bachche hon*'—you may have eight children. These things will have to be stopped somewhere. It is the time to think of giving incentive or disincentive in this country? Sir, long back, Maharashtra had passed a legislation in this regard. But was not agreed upon. They said that under this Act they allow only one or two children and for the subsequent child disincentive would start. Why don't you accept it? If you are serious about it, then you will have to accept these methods. If you do the thing in a half-hearted manner, you will not achieve anything and we are unfortunately going in the same direction for the last 40 years. The number of people who have been operated may increase, but the monetary benefit is the same for the last six or seven years. So, if you cannot have disincentives, at least give more monetary incentives.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we should extend time for the subject by one hour more. I think all of you agree.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: So, Sir, what I want to say is that it is high time that we start at least disincentives. If that is not possible, then give them more incentive. Today, you have provided so much money for poverty alleviation, to remove unemployment. Could you not do it much earlier? Could you not give some portion of it for giving more incentive for family planning? Government on many occasion, failed to see some of the facts that are really very much important and they are very obvious. I have seen that a reward is something which can activate a person to a great extent. I am sure the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, will give some thought in this direction and help the nation to stop the population explosion.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMANKURAM SODI (Bastar): Hon. Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise support the Resolution moved by hon. Dr. Bhoi. Considering the situation prevailing in the country, this Resolution gains added importance in terms of its relevance. the population explosion has put the country in a precarious position and the time has now come for us to ponder over its implications. The population explosion has become an impediment in the country's progress and it is necessary to take remedical steps to solve the crisis.

The manner in which the family planning programme was implemented during the Emergency period left the people fearful. The public should have had faith in the programme, instead they become scared of it. considering the present-day circumstances in the country, Harijans and Adivasis who at that time shied away from family planning are today adopting it voluntarily. Another reason for this is that apart from agriculture, there is no other means of livelihood in villages. Land holdings inherited from their

forefathers are now shrinking due to fragmentation. Under these conditions Harijans and Adivasis in villages are getting attracted towards this programme. But this programme should be taken to areas where modern facilities are available. In accordance with Dr. Bhoi's suggested principle of 'one child per family', this programme would be more effective in areas with modern amenities. In places, where there is one primary health centre with skeleton staff at a distance of 50-100 kilometres, there are even chances of resentment and fear arising among local people if any family planning operation results in post-operative complications.

At places where primary health centres are situated so far apart, there is no means of transportation available there. If the Health Department does not co-operate in this matter, a complicated family planning operation could even have fatal consequences. Such a situation is quite common these days. Not only this, there are many hospitals where facilities are inadequate. Where doctors are present, medicines are not available and where medicines are available the requisite staff is not at hand. At such places the family planning programme should be implemented in a manner that does not adversely affect anyone.

In order to strengthen the family planning programme, 'Aanganwadi' and 'Balwadi' has been introduced at many places. These schemes should be implemented vigorously over there as they will help villagers. In this way, more people will be attracted towards family planning. The Government should make arrangement to ensure regular and through check ups of patients. In all centres opened under Anganwari Programme, sufficient number of doctors are not available. They do not go for check ups even at an interval of every 15 days whereas they are supposed to visit their areas regularly.

Generally, the children of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes study upto primary school level only and do not want to go for middle school education. Therefore, hostel facilities, especially for middle school girls, should be provided so that maximum girls could continue their studies. Once they pass middle school examination, they will automatically inculcate interest in going for higher education.

A survey after every two years, should be conducted to ascertain the birth rate as also the number of cases of infanticide in the areas where children die of dangerous diseases like malaria, dysentery and diarrhoea. Only after conducting such survey, target for sterilization should be fixed. If the family planning target is not achieved the salaries of lower level officials, such as Palwari, Forest guards, Police constable etc. are stopped. As a result, these lower level officials, who have day to day dealing with the people, force the poor people to undergo family planning operation. Therefore, target should not be fixed for these officials because they force only the poor farmers and do not bring their own relatives. Thus, the target for the areas where modern hospital facilities are not available need be fixed after thorough consideration.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister will intervene next time. The House stands adjourned to reassemble at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday, the 2nd May, 1989.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Tuesday, May 2, 1989/
Vaisakha 12, 1911 (Saka)*