

on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 29th March 1989*.

per couple norm by the people;

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Sixty-second Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 29th March, 1989."

The motion was adopted.

- (iii) raise the level of education of women;
- (iv) provide adequate health care to women and children;
- (v) lay down a uniform civil code for all citizens especially with regard to marriage and family welfare; and
- (vi) set up a National Population Commission to suggest measures to achieve the target of zero per cent population growth rate by the turn of the century."

15.32 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: MEASURES TO CONTROL POPULATION EXPLOSION

Before I start my deliberation, I will start with a sloka:

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi, you can move your resolution.

Sarve Bhavantu Sukine
Sarve Santu Niremaya
sarve Bhandrani Pashyantu
Ma Kashchid Dukhbhagbhaveta

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sam-balpur): Sir, I am grateful to you that you are in the Chair when I move my resolutions.

This is the Mahamantra and this was adopted by Shrimati Indira Gandhi and she was not only the mother of India but she was the mother of the globe.

I beg to move:

Ayam Nija Paro Vetu
Gunana Laguchetsam
Udaar Charitanam Tu
Vasudev Kutambakam

"This House notes with grave concern the population explosion in the country which has thwarted all development efforts and urges upon the Government to take *inter alia* the following measures for improving the quality of life of the people:

This is the Path of Jagannath culture. Lord Jagannath is not only the God of Orissa. He is the God of the whole universe and He is the God of not only Hindus but he is the God of Islam for which one Salabiga has written many poems and prayers.

- (i) recognise the family welfare programme as a national imperative;
- (ii) evolve a national consensus for acceptance of one child

It is indeed a matter of great privilege, besides being an elected member of this august House, a member of the medical profession, that I am moving this resolution, in the larger interests of the nation's prosperity. The 'Tryst with destiny' which the late

[Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi]

Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru echoed on the dawn of independence still rings in our ears. Although under the inspiring and dynamic directions of Pt. Motilal Nehru's lineage, the country has, if not leaped, at least progressed into a modern State. Why I say is, because we should have gone to plenty instead of progress, but for the fact that the alarming demographic growth has eaten away our progress made in various fields, be it industrial or agricultural or in the field of science and technology. The records of gross national product has provided a satisfactory growth.

The GNP growth rate is 78 per cent since 1951 whereas the population growth has exploded to over 150 per cent since 1951, thus damagingly dwarfing the progress of the nation.

In order to ensure that the real productivity programmes are continued and improved upon by our worthy leader, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, it is imperative that a measured control to the population growth is discussed by this august House and in the global forums.

Let us pose ourselves this question: Is it possible to grow an additional 130 million tonnes of food grains, 1088 million additional metres of cloth and to construct nearly 12.65 lakh additional schools, to speak a few, by the turn of this century with the given increase in the population growth? Is it possible to accommodate 175 million school-going children? Is it possible to create an additional teaching staff of nearly three lakhs to impart education? Will we be able to build an additional 1.75 million houses? What about the unemployment, when by the turn of the century, we will have to create employment potential for an additional 47.5 million jobs? My hon. friends and respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is not so easy. It is an arduous and difficult task; although with the Congress Party at the helm of affairs, it is not impossible if we stunt the population growth.

Think of the educated youth churning out of the schools. At this rate, during 2000 AD, we may have to manage to build one primary school in every five minutes and one higher secondary school every 30 minutes.

Sir, with the advancement of medical technology, it is possible to treat the survivors of thermo-nuclear disasters akin to Chernobyl of USSR or Thrienne of USA. The survivors, due to radiation, would suffer from bone-narrow depression and through bone-narrow transplantation, the survivors can be cured. But what about the population explosion? How do you curb it? The situation is alarming. It needs the immediate attention in the global forums besides this august House.

Sir, we have to consider the international perspective of our late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi. She was not only the mother of India, but she symbolised "Basudheiba Kutumbakam". How farsighted was the greatest statesman of the country, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was instrumental in creating industrial and scientific infrastructure. He had created so many modern temples like the Bhakra-Nangal, Hirakud, Bhilai and Durgapur and also 38 internationally reputed research centres and hundreds of core-industries which are now under-utilised. All these achievement and the continued progress under the dynamic leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi would come to a nought, if we do not control child birth. Dangerous is the dymension of demographic increase. Without a fall in demographic graph, all the other growth would reflect in the negative. Let us not wait for the earthquake to shake us. Let us feel the seismic pulse, find a remedy and if need be use a long syringe, a long dose of unpalatable injection. What I am saying is to be construed as a reflection of a very honest Indian mind. For me, the nation is above self, above all things.

Let no religious faith produce a child to be destined to starve. Let no philosophy call for the curse of death due to deprivation of basic needs of life. Even the Shariat, which

our party manifesto says we will not touch it, will not share the deprivation of the right of every child to good education, basic needs of life, and quality of health life. Sir, no sane person would ever want a child to wilter in winter or succumb to sunstroke for want of shelter. Can we provide these things to unrestricted growth of population? What we need is a resolute bureaucracy and a determined Governmental effort.

In the European countries, the birth and death ratios are to a tolerable limit. In Sweden, Federal Republic of Germany and USA it is 12:11, 11:12 and 16:9 respectively compared to India which has got the birth and death ratio at 36:14. At this rate, we may surpass the Chinese population by the turn of the century. In China, they have achieved a goal of 1.2 person per year. Japan has a figure of .53 percent per year. It is worthwhile mentioning that in Western countries, the Government takes upon themselves the task of taking recourse to preventive measures rather than curative measures. They key factors for fertility decline includes changes in the attitude of the Government towards population growth and the extension service.

Even in Muslim countries, polygamy is abolished. Nowhere the Shariat or Koran, has endorsed polygamy and the four Imams who control 27 per cent of the global population and profess Islam, opined that if a person is capable to maintain satisfactorily with all the basic needs of life, he can produce more children. But at the same time, they have cautioned and cited the example of an orange tree. I quote:

"If a passer by goes behind an orange orchard, seeing thousands of orange in trees, he is elated, but the same passer by goes by the orchard the next year and sees the trees bereft of fruits, he is dejected. If only 80 per cent of the orange fruit had been nipped in the bud, the same oranges could have been seen year after year."

Thus, the Imams were not against small

families.

Take the Census of 1951. The population was 360 millions, Now it is nearly 799 millions. Rather it should have been the other way. If it is unchecked by 2,000 AD, the population will be, according to different demographers and experts, 988 million. And somebody has said that it will be 998 million. Such a reverse trend is detrimental to the cherished desire of our century old Congress Party which is committed to eliminate poverty and assure a quality life for every citizen.

Political prejudices, religious bias should not cloud our thinking. We should address ourselves to the seriousness of the problem and arrive at a conclusion. The most important national priority is to ensure quality life to every citizen. Will it be possible with the present growth rate?

I suggest the following measures for the consideration of this august House. First is, we should adopt one child family norm through comprehensive legislation without infringing the constitutional rights of the citizen. Now that is the question. If one child norm is adopted, the only problem is in Vasectomy and Tubectomy, there is a danger of child dying prematurely. The recanalisation of Vasectomy and Tubectomy is only 30 per cent successful in India whereas it is successful 80 per cent outside India. There is an alternative method. Our Government is not laying stress on that, that is, the Indian Systems of Medicine—the Ayurveda. In the Districts of Bastar and Koraput and in my constituency Sambalpur four devices of generic herbs are available. In the Koraput district, there is a free sex before marriage for Adivasies. The root is given so that the fertility is stopped. After the negotiation, again the same bark of that root is given and again fertilization takes place. It takes five years. Hon. Health Minister is not present here. He should have heard me. I have got an Ayurvedic College in my village Narsinghnath. We are having a research work. We request the ICMR to give patronage to this Bio-medical Research Centre so

[Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi]

that we are able to fulfil the aspirations of the whole globe and the whole country will be happy about it. Ensure zero growth rate by 2000 AD. Though I have written this, I am requesting the Government to have legislation phasewise. Let us have two-child norm now till we are successful to give the hope that if the first child is dead the recanalisation is made or the new method of Ayurvedic system of medicine is bio-medically proved to be successful.

It has been largely found that through education of women it is possible to keep a check on the population growth. In a country where the rural women attribute the birth of a child as a divine gift, it is necessary that they should be given education. We should induce the women to join a school at the girl stage. In China hundred per cent education is there. In India, if I tell that hundred percent education should be there by 2000 AD, it is not possible. So, I am stressing on the education of women who actually should be the decision maker for, particularly, sterilisation, contra-ceptive and spacing methods are now outdated. We have incorporated them from the British regime.

Our is not a country; it is a sub-continent having all the seven types of geological formations like old, ancient, tertiary, *Gandwana* and rock-feller. So, for us in different places different types of devices have to be adopted for population control.

The Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is sitting here. She is a woman; she must note my concrete suggestions. We would be spending by 2000 AD a lot of money because of population explosion and the per capita expenditure will be more than one thousand rupees. So, why not give some cash incentives to girls below poverty line to study in a school? There should be a stipend of Rs. 40 to Rs. 45 per month for primary school education. There should be Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 stipend for the higher secondary school education. For the middle class people there can be Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 for

primary school education. This is for girls only. For the upper class, it is different.

A person in China adopting one-child family norm is getting a house site, free education and after Class 12 if his child is meritorious, reservation of a seat is there in the medical college and in different technological institutions. Why not we also do this? We can also impart this incentive here.

Now, the female literacy ratio is 1:2, 24% females as against 48% male literacy. Though it has increased, from 1901 until now it is 2:1 only. It should be rather reversed and unless and until that is stressed upon I don't think we can achieve the cherished goal of Mrs. Indira Gandhi who has singed the Alma At declaration in 1977. We have adopted a national health policy in 1983 declaring health for all by 2000 AD.

Till today we have spent over Rs. 2600 crores or so only. It is just like pelting a stone over the mountain to check the population explosion. The minimum, according to my view and the Bhor Committee's recommendations, what the Health Department should get is 10% of the total Plan allocation and out of that, 50% should go to the population control programme.

In the vasectomy and tubectomy process of Allopathy and the Ayurvedic type of treatment where contraceptives come, this country should adopt the family planning in a stringent manner. Just for example you see the figures; in 1976-77, 86,63,000 people were sterilised. In 1977-78, it came down through the Raj Narain Formula to 12,42,000 only. In 1978-79, it was 18 lakhs. Now it has increased to 50,28,000. If we cannot protect the eligible couple, it is a very dangerous phenomenon. A serious thought has to be given to it.

When Mrs. Indira Gandhi was there, she was always saying in all the world-forums that the fruits in nature should be divided amongst the human beings. We always tell in all the world-forums that all human beings are the product of God. When

other European countries and developing countries like China can achieve the goal, why can't we achieve our goal? We should achieve our goal by 2000 A.D., we must achieve the Zero per cent growth by 2010 A.D. For that a comprehensive legislation is required. The sons of the soil belong to everybody. I approached the Hon. Health Minister through the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, to set up a Narasinganath Ayurvedic Research Centre - bio-medical centre - for arresting the population growth, so that we can achieve this goal.

Secondly, Sir, the family planning programme is controlled by the bureaucrats. I am not averse to that. But experience suggests that along with the bureaucrats; who will work in the family planning department, we should have doctors also, who will man those high posts. Why can't we utilise their services and keep them in that cadre? Particularly, lady doctor and women volunteers should be recruited throughout the country to explain various programmes to the people. I suggest, Sir, that community-based approach will not work. So my suggestion will be that from every village a person with a minimum qualification of matriculation should be taken as an agent and that agent should be trained for 15 days on what are the pros and cons of the various family planning techniques. This is because the media and other things are not giving due attention to the rumours which are being spread like due to vasectomy impotency will be there." About contraceptives, there are so many adverse comments, coming in the foreign journals. There is an Ayurvedic contraceptive. The Ayurvedic medicines may not cure, but they do not do any harm like creating side-effects. Therefore, my suggestion is that from each village, preferably, with a population of 2000 a minimum of four agents should be appointed and they must motivate people. Out of four two at least should be women.

Then, for doing family planning work, the village guides who were brought about unnecessarily by Shri Raj Narain should be done away with and in their place, persons

with a minimum qualification, of say matriculation who knows something, should be trained for 15 days and given that job. A refresher course should be arranged for them.

Then, family planning sub-centres must be visited intermittently, by competent people. The agent should motivate other people. The agent should be chosen by the panchayat -pradhan and other social ladies of the village so that he can motivate and explain to the people. In the upper stage, at the primary health centre level, the doctor must visit at least four times in a year to supervise the work. The marriage age has been increased to 18 and 21 but I want to marriage age should still be increased from 18 to 21 for ladies and 21 to 24 for the gents. That will help.

Under the 20-point economic programme Government is distributing free doles in different parts of the country. I would like to say until and unless a person adopts two member family norm he should not be given any type of loan. Even the farmers who do not adopt this norm should not be encouraged or rather there should be dis-incentive for them. As regards the persons working in different public sector and Government undertakings and those who have already produced two children in their case we cannot do anything but those who are in the age group of 25-35 years should be motivated. If they adopt one member family norm then some increment should be given to them so that they can motivate other people.

Further I would like to say that the budget provision should be increased. I am telling this because all our schemes are being monitored by the State Governments. There should be provision of dis-incentive to those State Governments who take more over-draft from the Reserve Bank but do not fulfil the target fixed by the Family Welfare Department of Government of India.

As far as old age is concerned people want a son should be there for old-age security. So until and unless old age pension

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is given to all by adopting the formula which have been adopted in China, etc. things will not improve.

Another thing is that bachelors do not produce children. In the present system there is no incentive being given to the bachelors. Some incentive should be given to them in the form of ration, etc. In allopathic system of medicine the success rate for recanalisation of vas-deferens and fellopian tubes here is 30 per cent and in western countries it is eighty percent. More doctors should be trained. In this context my other suggestions are involvement of non-governmental and voluntary organisations. Some voluntary organisations in the name of doing so many things are taking lot of money from the Central Government. Some target should be fixed for the voluntary organisations also. Now about 300 voluntary organisations are engaged in this work. They are: Family Planning Foundation of India; Family Planning Association of India; Christian Medical Association of India; Rotary and Lions clubs; Trade Unions; Chambers of Commerce, etc. All these voluntary organisations ask for help from the Government but they must be asked to fulfil some target. Research work is also very low in India. I have prepared a separate note on this which I will give separately. We have got a research institute which should be tried in U.P., Bihar and other States because there population explosion is more than any other place. Women education is better in Kerala and, as such, the results there are better.

16.00 hrs.

About the Community-Based Approach to family planning, the local person involved knows much more than the outside health workers as to who is the most influential member in the decision-making process in the family; how are family and kinship relationships sustained and their significances and strengths according to the categories in the family/kin/social groups; who is the decision-maker in the family and what social

pressure could he or she use to change the attitude towards such decisions; he or she understands the taboos and customs of the different communities in the village; what is the economic situation of the people of the community. The rationale and objective of the Community-Based Approach is to increase the acceptance of family planning services; to eliminate the time gap in the supply of contraceptives; to remove cultural and social barriers; not to pressurise but to motivate the eligible couples for sterilisations like vasectomy and tubectomy. Both are very popular throughout the country but vasectomy to a less extent. I want to say that till now the status of women has not been increased. The last census says that out of 50 lakhs cases, 40 lakhs were tubectomy cases and 10 lakhs were vasectomy cases. Women have been suppressed and exploited. This approach should be changed. Motivation and other things should be done in a phased manner.

Regarding the implementation of the scheme, Government of India may not take any legislative measures immediately, they must at least try to take some steps through the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi which is the technical research institute for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the country. It could be pre-tested in any one of the states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, called by Bose 'BIMARU STATES'. If the results are found to be encouraging, then implement in the whole country.

Regarding the infant and child survival, we have not still improved in this. Our goal by 2000 A.D. should be 21 per thousand births and 9 per thousand deaths. But it is still less now. In other countries, the death rate has come down. In India 76 per cent of the population live in the villages and 40 per cent of the population are below the poverty line. We have adopted increase of marriage age for men and women but 48 per cent of the population have not yet adopted this. Only a legislation will not help to solve the problem. We have to think in that context. I would urge

upon the Deputy Speaker and all Members who are sitting here that irrespective of caste and religion, India can achieve much in this field. In 1976-77, when we could sterilise 80 lakhs of people, now why can't we sterilise one crore of eligible couples per year? This should be our determination so that we can reach our goal by 2000 A.D. by decreasing the population. Again, your benevolence and magnanimity has given me time and I will end by saying a slogan.

Ganga shatudra Yamuna dinadhya
Yasyav Prashutip Pariyavayante
Yuvram Sita Charam Prasoota
Samaypiyo Bharat Bhavya Desha

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"This House notes with grave concern the population explosion in the country which has thwarted all development efforts and urges upon the Government to take *inter alia* the following measures for improving the quality of life of the people:

- (i) recognise the family welfare programme as a national imperative;
- (ii) evolve a national consensus for acceptance of one child per couple norm by the people;
- (iii) raise the level of education of women;
- (iv) provide adequate health care to women and children;
- (v) lay down a uniform civil code for all citizens especially with regard to marriage and family welfare; and
- (vi) set up National Population Commission to suggest measures to achieve the target of zero per cent popula-

tion growth rate by the turn of the century."

Mr. Shankar Lal, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI SHANKAR LAL (Pali) I beg to move:

That in the resolution.

- (i) omit" (ii) evolve a national consensus for acceptance of one child per couple norm by the people".
- (ii) omit "(vi) set up a National Population Commission to suggest measures to achieve the target of zero per cent population growth rate by the turn of the century."
- (iii) add at the end—
- (vii) enact a uniform law for all citizens, without any discrimination of caste, creed or religion, for adoption of family planning programme prescribing a limit of two children per couple".

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri V.C. Jain...

SHRI SHANKAR LAL : Sir, I am on a point of order. I would like to know whether I will be given a chance to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I will call you later on but not now.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Sir, I beg to move:

That in the resolution,

omit " (v) lay down a uniform civil code for all citizens especially with regard to marriage and family welfare;"

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri V.C. Jain to speak now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the resolution moved by hon. Dr. Bhoi is in the interest of the country. The Government has also taken concrete steps in transforming the Family Planning Programme into a national programme but this programme should be implemented in the manner by which the Cooperation of the people is received. We have enacted several social legislations but as the people were not cooperative they could not be implemented. If such laws are prepared which are not possible to be implemented, it will be our failure. Hitherto unanimity has not reached among our political parties as to what policy should be adopted to check population growth. As regards the programmes which are operating in the rural areas and districts, the representatives of the people such as the Sarpanch, the Pradhans the Pramukhs, the M.L.As, the M.Ps etc. take little interest in their implementation. It is only the Government officials which are taking considerable interest in this matter. If the said representatives of the people also take necessary interest in it, the Family Planning Programme could have achieved much success. These programmes are presented before the Panchayat Samiti and the Zila Parishad but the representatives of the people do not have the courage to carry the Family Planning Programme forward. The need of the hour is that all political parties should sit together and evolve some agreed formula and legal shape can be given to it. If a legislation is made but could not be implemented and it was opposed by others as it happened in 1977, it will also fail to serve any purpose as it happened in 1977. Therefore no such steps should be taken, the results of which are dangerous. The people are not prepared for it as yet. In order to encourage the public to adopt more and more family planning, the best course would be to persuade the representatives of the people to take interest in it. The question is that our target is:-

[*English*]

to achieve the target of zero per cent population growth rate by the turn of the century.

[*Translation*]

The way we are making progress we cannot achieve our target in this way. It is very essential to extend this educational programme. This programme has been very successful in Kerala. It has not been successful in my constituency and the entire Rajasthan. In my constituency 3 per cent women are educated and in district Barmer the literacy percentage is 12. The percentage of literacy in Rajasthan as a whole is 24 and among women it is 12. Until and unless more and more women are covered under the literacy programme, the family planning programme cannot be successful. More emphasis should be laid on primary education. The requirement of primary schools must be met in very nook and corner of the country. Every child keen to study must be provided facilities therefore. The State Governments as well as the Central Government should take suitable steps in this regard. It should be ensured that there is a school for every child within a radius of not more than one or two kilometres throughout the country. Last year as many as 3000 primary schools were opened in my state Rajasthan also. But they were as good as not opened since no teachers were posted there. When these people want to learn, they must be provided the opportunity. If they are not provided educational opportunity, how will you be able to make them understand the implications of family planning. As per the norms fixed by the centre there should be a sub-centre at all places having a population of 3000. Sub-Centres, First Aid posts, primary health centres, referral hospitals and big hospitals should be opened in hilly and desert areas. Where dispensaries have been opened, doctors do not go there. If two doctors are posted, only one doctor reports for duty or even one doctor is not there.

Posts of doctors, compounders and A.N.Ms. should be filled at all the places. Doctors etc. are unwilling to accept postings in hilly, desert and tribal areas. Special allowances should be granted in such areas. Arrangements should be made to provide residential accommodation to them. Then only this programme can be successful. It is also essential to post surgeons, well-versed in laparoscopy, in all primary health centres. They should have full knowledge of laparoscopy, tubectomy and vasectomy operations. All these arrangements should be made at the primary health centres otherwise huge expenditure is incurred on organising special camps, first programme is drawn, the collectors visits the place, Government vehicles run from one place to another and then just 10 or 20 to 25 women turn up. This infructuous expenditure can be avoided if arrangements for laparoscopy are made at the primary health centres. Trained doctors should be posted to rural areas and they should be offered attractive salary in comparison to their counterparts in the cities. They should also be paid special allowances so that they have full involvement in this programme. Now single child norm has been suggested. This philosophy cannot be accepted in our country at present. We are prepared to adopt two child norm. In our country person belonging to no religion will be prepared to limit his family to just one child, either a daughter or a son. It is, therefore, necessary to stick to the decision of limiting the size of a family to two children. The concept of small family is acceptable and importance of family planning cannot be denied. In our country the population is growing in an alarming progression and there are religions which do not recognise family planning. People think that children are the gift of God. It is, therefore, necessary to make them understand and persuade the fundamentalists to face the reality and see logic. We have made very little efforts in this direction. We should promote and encourage such literature which highlights the fact that no religion, whether Christianity or Islam prohibits adoption of family planning by its followers and therefore, they should take steps in this regard. For this purpose low

priced literature should be produced and made available in rural areas also so that there is change of mind and thinking in which we have failed so far. It is one of our weak points. We should make efforts in this direction. Force of law is not going to have desired results. People have to be motivated through persuasion, logic and conviction. In the right earnest we should grant stipends to girls, no matter even if the rate is Rs. 50 or Rs. 100, but this facility must be extended. Since people are not prepared to accept such a law, there is no need to enact it but democratic methods should be adopted to persuade people to accept this programme. Every effort should be made to popularise and propagate this programme to every individual through promotion of education and extension of medical facilities. If we follow this policy, our programme will definitely be successful. With these words I support this resolution.

[English]

DR. G. VJAYA RAMA RAO (Siddipet):
Sir, my hon. friend at the right point and right time has come up with a resolution which includes some of the proposals to control the population of our country. For the last about 50 years, the beginning of the post-independence era the population control has not been properly planned. Now India is the second most populous country in the world. India may be lacking in every aspect, in every field, but only in the field of population it has reached the second place in the whole world.

The population problem cannot be solved or it just cannot be controlled from Delhi or the State capitals. I feel that by making some legislation only you can not control the population. The basic unit for controlling population is the family which is in the outlying rural areas. The rural people, the families which are there, they are ignorant of population control, of the problems coming up due to a large population and how to manage when more children are produced in a particular family. Unless the Government takes corrective action at the basic

[Dr. G. Vijaya Rama Rao]

level, at the family level, unless we make them conscious about a limited family, population control cannot be achieved. Like the national water policy you may make a legislation and implement it, about the utilisation of water throughout the country, and thereby you may utilise the water in a proper way. But a single individual cannot control the water policy, whereas population control is certainly dependant on individuals. It starts from the individual's controlling his family. Therefore, each individual must become conscious of it. Therefore, in order to reach that goal, the Government, the social organisations, the people, the public representatives all of them have to play a greater and greater role.

In rural areas particularly the people are mostly illiterate. They think that by undergoing vasectomy they may get weakness or if a woman undergoes tubectomy she may become weak, or that if men go in for vasectomy they may lose their potency, and so on. Like that most of the people avoid family planning methods in the rural areas. So, the people who get more burdened or who become little more conscious about population they do so in spite of your incentives. But the people are not voluntarily coming forward and they are not following the family planning methods in our country. So, in order to win over them you must make them fully conscious of family planning. First of all you must talk to the people. Most of the people, who are illiterates, they do not know what is family planning. They ask why they should go in for family planning. Unless a family is planned it cannot contribute to the national development or participate in the economic development of the nation. Most of the people they do not know how to control their families, how to maintain a family. Until they reach the age of 60 or 70 or 50 they do not realise the need for family planning, they only think of their large family. This is so mostly in the rural areas.

We must educate people through the media, AIR, TV and other media, and create

consciousness among the public. Moreover, during the last forty years, the health facilities in our country have improved. Because good health services, the life expectancy has gone up in our country. Death Rate has gone down. Mortality amongst the children also has gone down. All these contribute increase in population. According to 1981 Census, our population was only 68.5 crores and in 1985, it crossed 75 crores mark. Now it may be 90 crores or so. By 2000, the population of our country will cross one hundred crores mark. If we do not go control the population, there will be competition among the human beings for naturally available things in our country. Further, most of the rural uneducated people are being exploited by the educated people. If we do not control the population, the educated people will exploit the uneducated people more. Moreover, in rural areas, one particular section of the people do not want to go in for family planning. They feel that getting the children is God's gift. Because of this misconception, they are going on increasing the population. We must educate these people through our media. In India and in other countries, there is a ceiling for everything. As per the land ceiling, one cannot have more land. Similarly, we can have a legislation that an individual cannot have more than two or three children. Unless we make it compulsory, we may not be able to control the population. The present incentives are not attractive. We are giving just Rs. 150/- to a man who undergoes family planning operation and Rs. 250/- to a woman who undergoes family planning operation. After undergoing the operation, people have to take rest for the nearly thirty days or so. Because of this, they lose their income. Keeping that in view you must increase the incentives and attract the viable people for the family planning. At the same time, we should educate people through our media. We should canvass more vigorously through our media for the family planning so that atleast in future we can have a quality life a healthy India and a healthy economy.

I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

* DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I will like to thank Dr. Krupa Sindhu Bhoi for bringing forth this important resolution before this House and thereby providing us with an opportunity to discuss their very important and serious subject.

Sir, ours is the first country in the world which adopted family planning as an official programme. But it is a matter of regret that as yet we have not been able to achieve what we desired and aimed at. That is why we shall have to make our family planning programmes more extensive and shall have to think of means to implement them much more effectively. I will not go into extensive details as that will require a long time. I will only say that it is necessary to take up more extensive and effective programmes in this respect. In the second point of his resolution, Dr. Bhoi has talked about evolving a national consciousness in this matter. Here I will say with sorrow and shame that national consciousness and consensus is not possible because most of our people are illiterate. There are schools in the villages but very few children go to those schools. The reason for this is mainly economic. There is want of consciousness no doubt, but the main reason is poverty. We shall have to think about this aspect also. In this connection I will say that in our country 'creches' have been started for infants and children. Now these 'creches' must be opened extensively all over the country. In these 'creches' the growing children will be taught what they should do when they grow up and the parents will also learn the benefits of education for their children. The immediate economic reasons will not appear so important to them compared to the future benefits of proper education for their children.

Our friend has mentioned about acceptance of the norm of one child per couple. Sir, our country consists mainly of villages. I do not believe that the villagers will accept this 'one child per couple' norm. Especially if that one child happens to be a female, than this

norm will never be accepted. If we impose this one child norm then the father of the female child will have to face many difficulties and miseries. Hence I suggest that we should think of 2 children per couple, not only one child. The third point he has raised about education of girls and women. Here I am ashamed to admit that our women are lagging far behind in the field of education. The number of educated women is very very small. Our government has of course allotted funds for women's education and adult education and is thinking of taking up women's educational programmes through various organisations. Here I will suggest that in the text books for adult education, the subject of family planning must be included in the form of interesting stories. If we advocate family planning in the books in a cut and dried manner, then they will not be acceptable. Hence we should preach them through interesting stories.

The fourth point of the resolution speaks about health care to women. Sir, I am ashamed to say that although the Government has done many things for the improvement of health care, yet in many dispensaries in the villages medicines are not available, Doctors are not available and compounders are not available. Looking to the primary health centres, we are reduced to tears. Nothing is available there. When the Prime Minister came to our State sometime back, he visited some places, He saw for himself the disgraceful conditions. It was published in the newspapers also. Such pitiable conditions do not exist in West Bengal alone, many other States are suffering from similar misfortune. The benefit of the dispensaries and health centres are not reaching all the people in the rural areas. Here I will like to point out to the Government that in our country there are many medicinal herbs, roots, leaves etc. Many ordinary diseases can be cured by their use. Sir, from my experience I am saying that if vocational training in Ayurvedic treatment is imparted to the village women, then they can treat many diseases in the primary stages. I do not like to take a long time on this. I will submit to our Health Ministry that, if they want to learn more

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

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or want to do something on this aspect, then I can make their contact with various voluntary organisations who are engaged in this noble task. I can also personally help them with whatever little experience I have in this matter.

In the fifth point, mention has been made of a uniform civil code. Sir, even before independence when we carried out 'Nari Andolans' (Women's) Agitations, we had been demanding a civil code.

Sir, here I recall those days with pride when I participated in the agitations and movements launched in this connection by the great and illustrious daughters of India like Sarojini Naidu, Vijayalaxmi Pandit, Kamaladevi Chottopadhyay, Amrit Kaur, Hansa Mehta and many others. I had the good fortune of working with them as a humble worker. We still believe in that and even today we launch such agitations. I will urge upon the Government to pay special attention to this and to lay down a uniform civil code at the earliest possible.

The sixth and last point is about setting up a National Population Commission. Here I have to say that the terms of reference of this Commission should be laid down in greater detail. It is necessary to set up such a Commission. This is because we are constantly falling behind our family planning targets. We are spending a lot of money on family planning but if we visit a slum area what do we see? We see that innumerable children are moving about. If we visit a village, we find countless number of children. Specially if we go to a little interior in a jeep, numberless kids run behind the jeep. We are afraid of driving the jeep lest somebody gets runover. If we cannot put a check on this population explosion then all our development efforts will go in vain. Nobody will derive any benefit from them. We shall have to educate the families about the desirability and benefits of family planning. It is our common experience that in an educated and economically well off family, the number of

children are limited. Whereas in an uneducated and poor family the number of children is much larger. They suffer from various prejudices and superstitions. Many of them think that the use of various family planning methods are sinful. If they indulge in family planning, their work will be adversely affected. They are of the view that a larger number of children will assist them in their work and livelihood. Many of them refuse to understand that a smaller number of healthy children are more useful for the betterment of the family. I have discussed this matter with many village women. They say 'how can we carry on with less than 4 or 5 children. What will happen if 2 or 3 of them die? Death among them is quite common. Therefore spread of education among the village women is very necessary. We shall have to go all out to generate consciousness among them about this problem. Family planning programmes should be chalked out accordingly. We should all work together jointly to implement these programmes effectively and to make them a success.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDIN (Kishanganj) Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when I look at the contemporary world scene and particularly when I focus my attention on our own region, our own country, I find there is a race between natural resources and human population and the human race is losing this race, despite the progress that we have made in man's control over his environment, man's conquest of productive forces, man's adoption of science and technology. And there, Sir, the need for a control on population in order to secure for all human beings, a minimum measure of progress and development, a minimum standard of living, a life of dignity, cannot be over-emphasised. But while we are so clear about the end, I think, we lack clarity about the means to achieve this end. If our objective is to control population rise in order to secure a better life for man, we cannot possibly adopt means which go against his basic dignity. If our objective is to meet the essential needs of man to fulfil minimum requirement which

would enable him to lead a life of dignity, then we cannot adopt methods such as wars, epidemic, famine, etc. which were some time in the past adopted as measures of State policy in order perhaps to control the growth of population. We reject those measures. Now, we are in an era where we think that a State can do everything and therefore our emphasis has been on what the State can do in this regard. I submit Mr. Deputy-Speaker that even the State cannot make an absolute or limitless intervention in this particular phenomenon. Whatever the State decides to do, whatever the State proposes to do must be subject to the voluntary will of the people. Therefore, to my mind, the question of population control or population limitation is primarily a moral question which has to be handled with the human dignity aspects in view.

Sir, in India or in any under-developed society or any developing country, the essential need to is build up a measure of confidence among the people. We have to give them the hope that infants shall not die prematurely. The other day we had a discussion in this House and we found that the infant mortality rate was extremely high. Well, we have had a number of statistical analyses in various parts of the country and it has been established that in regions or in areas and in localities where we have been able to upgrade the quality of child welfare upgrade the quality of family welfare of maternity welfare, in order to give the people the hope that the children who are born shall not die prematurely, we have been able to bring down the desire of the people to have more children and therefore, the population growth rate. So, to some extent it is a question of building up the right psychology through the right intervention by the Government in the field of welfare through both officially sponsored and voluntary programmes.

Secondly, it is the question of information. There are still large groups of people in our country who, because of illiteracy, do not quite understand the relationship, many of them, I can assure you, do not even know the

relationship between a sexual intercourse and the conception of a child. This information has to be brought home and therefore, here also the State can play a meaningful role in extending the area of information and making the basic information available to all the couples of a particular age.

Sir, it has also been established that to the extent that we raise the level of education we are able to bring down the rate of population growth. But what is still more important is that there is a direct co-relationship between the standard of living and the level of socio-economic development and the number of children per family. Sir, it is not automatic that responsible parents want to give as good a life, if not a better life, to their progeny than what they have themselves been able to have, and therefore, we find that in the upper strata of society where there is a greater certainty that the children shall live also, shall mature, shall receive the right education, there is also a desire that in order to give them the best that they are entitled to, we have to limit the number of people. Sir, there is of course a question of lifestyle which goes on changing from society to society. It has been said that perhaps in the rural areas without electricity the rate of population growth is higher and it can be brought down if we simply introduce electricity because once we introduce electricity, we change the entire life pattern of society. You give people many more things to live for. Therefore, Sir, all these questions you have got to take into account when you think of measures which will help us to attain the objective.

The primary question, therefore, in our country is the question of economic development and included in that question is also the question of disparity in the level of development. If we are able to bring the minimum level of development for every human being and if we are able to reduce the disparities that still persist in our society between section and section, between region and region, between class and class, I am sure that the rate of population growth can be brought down to a uniform low.

[Sh. Syed Shahabudin]

In any case we have got to understand that in a democracy there is no place for coercion and therefore, coercive methods are out of court. Even if they are sanctified by laws, Yes, you can have incentives in the overall interest of society, but incentives are one thing, penalties are quite another. Can we ever conceive of a society in which we can say that the third child should be put to death, or in the case of third pregnancy, the mother shall be subject to a compulsory abortion. Are we in favour of foeticide? Can we bring our moral fibre to accept that level of coercion? No, we cannot. Therefore, whatever we do, we should keep in view that the coercion should not be the name of the game. Whatever we decide, whatever incentives we give, we must take into account, our deep sense of moral values, our traditional value system, our cultural ethos and, if I may say so, our religious convictions. In any case, laws cannot change the society. We have seen that in the case of a number of pieces of social legislation that we have enacted in our country, some-times those legislations are being reduced to merely pieces of paper. They are not implemented. For example, one effective way of controlling the growth of population would have been a limitation or upgrading of the age of marriage. We passed a law on child marriage. We know that the law has proved to be a dead letter. Millions and millions of children today in India are still being married in various places. Therefore, I am only giving an example, if you enact a law which goes against the basic moral and traditional fibre of society, without upgrading the level of consciousness, without upgrading the level of education, the level of development, then *these laws only adorn Statute Books by themselves. Whatever be the police power of state in the hands of my friends, Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev, he cannot change the living pattern of the society.*

I have also given an amendment here to this resolution. What are we essentially aiming at? From a purely scientific point of view, if you can reduce the period of effective

fertilisation of a human females if you reduce the possibility, you reduce the rate of population growth. From a scientific point of view, that is the question of reducing the effective period of fertilisation of a couple during a period when they are capable of producing a child. Now, they have been, of course, trying this in many scientific ways— whether you raise the age of marriage or whether you adopt chemical methods or mechanical methods or surgical methods. Whatever you do, essentially what you are doing is to reduce the effective period of fertilisation.

Now, I would like to point out to you the reasons for my amendment and I am not here to talk about why uniform civil code is necessary or why uniform civil code is not necessary, because at a different place and in a different situation, we can argue that point. My basic point is, that uniform civil code is totally irrelevant to this question of population growth. Even if my hon. colleague who moved the Resolution had the question of polygamy in his mind, my submission to him, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, is that polygamy as an institution, is irrelevant, scientifically irrelevant to the rate of population growth. It is because, the effective numbers of females in a given society are decided on the basis of natural principles. That is not in the hands of human beings. Then, given the stock of females, it does not matter who the fertilising agent is. Male's role in this process of fertilisation is extremely limited. It is the female who conceives a child. It is the female who carries the child. It is the female who gives birth to a child and irrespective of who the fertilising agent is, irrespective of whether the fertilising agent is one man the others different, irrespective of whether the same fertilising agent fertilises more than one fertilisation objects, the population growth will be exactly the same. Therefore, to my mind this part of the Resolution is totally irrelevant to the question of population growth, from the purely scientific point of view. If my hon. friend has only this question of polygamy in mind. My basic submission to you is whether one male marries four females or ten females or hundred females, that will only deprive the other males of their

due share of females. It does not change the possibility of fertilisation and, therefore, the effective level of fertilisation or the rate of growth of population in any sense. That is why, I have objected to this part and I have submitted this amendment quite apart from other philosophical and other questions involved.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Polygamy reduces the growth rate.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : That also is a scientific fact. In a given family , which circumscribes more than one female, then the natural impulse is to reduce the average number of children per female because of the burden of bearing them which lies upon the same unit. Therefore, psychologically it has been established that in fact polygamy might affect in a negative direction the rate of population growth. But I am not here to propound or plead or propagate for polygamy. My basic point is that uniform civil code is totally irrelevant in this resolution. It does not affect the question of population growth. In any case, the inclusion of this particular Clause in this resolution, to my mind, becomes counter-productive because it creates a suspicion that it has got certain political motivation, that it is directed against a particular group which has been resisting the idea of uniform civil code for one reason or the other. Whatever the reason, I am not going into validity of the reasons.

16.59 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the Chair*]

But the fact is that there is a section of people in this country who are unlike Dr. Ambedkar who was the drafter of the Constitution and who had pleaded at the time the Constitution was written that a State should endeavour in that direction but the State shall be mad if they tried to enforce it against the will of the people. A State may have the power but a State must be prudent in exercising that power. He said that specifically in relation to this idea of a uniform civil code. I would only

point out that the inclusion of this particular Clause in this resolution takes away and in a sense produces a negative reaction, as far as the basic objective of having a uniform rate of development and winning this race of resources against numbers in India goes. We must have an effective programme of family planning and of population limitation so that our resources are not outstripped and we can easily ensure a life of dignity and meet the minimum basic needs of all our citizens and all our people. With these words, I present my amendment to the House for acceptance and I request the hon. Mover to accept the amendment in the spirit that I have presented it.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): I would like to make a few observations in support of this resolution moved by the hon. Member, Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi. This is not a new subject. We have discussed this subject often. Last year, in the month of May, if my memory serves me right, this has been discussed under Rule 193 and we had raised more or less similar points. But this Resolution moved by Dr. Bhoi today has made a few suggestions particularly on the norm for every family to be adopted that one family, a couple, should have one child.

Many salient points have been made. The first point that I would like to make in support of the measures that have been suggested is that I do not know with what courage of conviction, we are carrying out this programme. It includes those of us who are taking part in such a debate, including those who sit as Ministers, as officers implementing different programmes relating to the welfare of the people. Laws have been made in connection with the control of population, the growth of population. According to an estimate based on some reading of the Indian situation by a foreign expert, the world will be having, after some years, a sub-human community which will not be able to stand on its own legs in any sense. People will not be able to buy their cloth, purchase their own food and just it would not be

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possible for them to earn their own livelihood. According to that reading, 37 per cent of our population in the country today is in that level. That means, this 37 per cent of the population is not in a position to purchase its own food, to make its own food and earn its own livelihood. If this is a hint, then the expert must be hinting that after some years this sub-human community in India will not be able to exist by itself. This is unfortunate. But we are not going to accept that with so much of pessimism. We do not like to accept that kind of a reading. But we would like to make a reasoned reading of that pessimism in our country. If we look back to our past, soon after the framing of the Constitution, adoption of the Constitution in 1951, we had adopted a policy of our Family Planning when some other developed countries have not even dreamt of adopting Family Planning policy. But we did that. In spite of that, the growth in the population decade by decade is not at all stopping. In spite of that, the growth in the population decade by decade is not at all stopping. It is not being stopped. This only indicates that we have not been able to drive home the matter. But where is the home? This concerns us.

Sir, India is a country with ancient tradition. It is not a new human race or new civilization. It is an old civilization with so many inhabitants with so many inhibitions. In this connection I would like to say that the programme for the population education should be given priority. In 1980, about nine years back from today, a Working Group recommended that this family welfare programme should be an integral part of the general developmental programme. I think theoretically we have accepted that proposition. We do not say that we have not done anything. Even the hon. Prime Minister in his new 20 Point Programme and the former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi in her Programme have given due priority for this. The taste of the pudding is in the eating. We do not know how much theories, how much laws will be required. We do now know how much discussions we shall continue in this

matter. We have been ridiculing countries like China. We were thinking that that being a vast country with vast population, a certain massacre of population in the event of a war, endless 24 hour war, perennial war will wipe out this population. According to the present rate, China has just been able to control itself this population problem. After some time the population of China itself will be less than that of India. So this shows the amount of will-power, the amount of national determination that has been prevalent in a country like China. It is appreciable. This is very appreciable and this is very admirable. But can we think of that? I think, we cannot imitate China because we have so many small small communities, different provinces in their social and traditional inhibition. Today, we talk of family planning and the population explosion. My hon. friend Shri Shahabuddin has just given a brilliant speech. But then we thought he would make his speech mentioning about the targets. But what has been the target? What has been the objective? I was trying to listen to him as he makes very good speeches. I was just trying to get the target on which he was talking. But the target was missing. He was hovering around somewhere else. I do not know what was the objective of that speech itself. This indicates that there are communities, there are religious groups who still feel that they are in minority, they are still in a weaker position so far as manpower is concerned. Whatever happens at the legal level, whatever happens at the intellectual level about family planning or population growth, they, still in their sub-consciousness, are of the opinion that they should have more children. We cannot stop them.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALA: Mere hallucination.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: I am speaking from my experience. I would like to invite your attention to your own mention that polygamy reduces population. I do not know whether you have been suffering from any hallucination, because facts do not prove that contention. Polygamy naturally has increased population. But you and your

friend Shri Shahabuddin have said in very well words about this. I should say that it was only the jugglery of words. We have also seen the life and society as you have seen.

Now I come to my part of the country where there are small tribal communities. I do not know what is actually our social and national objective. For instance, some communities just want to hear their language in the All India Radio. You just ask about their population. There is a tendency particularly among the Nan Nagas, they are know as a Koki group, they just have the habit of raising the small village, small communities. Still, I do not support them nor can I stop them because it is a fact. How can we have any solution for such a situation? It is for us to suggest solution and for us to make laws and implement them properly. I am giving this example for the consideration of the Government. There are communities who always like to increase their manpower. They believe that by raising their manpower from 5 000 to 6,000 and so on, they will be able to get their rights. This has to be removed. It is for the Government to remove this kind of fear and apprehension that just because you are below one million mark you will miss that opportunity. We have to attack this problem through so many channels of our education and media and so many programmes. So far as Government of India is concerned, they have used their media through Doordarshan and All India Radio and others. After the report received from the working group on population growth, what action has the Government taken? Now everybody is for belling the cat. But who is to bell the cat? We are all in the likeness of rats—each one individually and collectively interested in belling the cat; but who is going to bell the cat? Because everybody is afraid.

Somebody was suggesting that this is a very sensitive issue and should we discuss it in the election year. Election means welfare for the people and the control of population is also for the welfare of the people. Why should we be apologetic and fight say about it? We should be more practical about it. The only point I would like to make is about the

population education. The working group itself has mentioned that it is going very slow. I should say that the reading they have made is only theoretical so far. In order to increase it to the practical level, we have to take up some other means.

For instance we should like to introduce contraceptive methods or termination of pregnancy, etc. Those who are not legally married, we are not concerned. But we are concerned with those who are legally married. Those who are not legally married, we can stop them producing illegitimate children. There are nursing homes, hospitals, private clinics, etc. practising termination of pregnancies. They are giving the benefit to mostly those who are not married. My information is unconfirmed; this may be true also. This is good in a way because we are not increasing the illegitimate children. But then, those who are married do not care because they are married and their children will be legitimate children. So now the attack should be on the population explosion by married couples. This attack, as my friend suggested, should not be by penalties or by punishment; but by educational methods, by convincing them and by bringing them round. In order to do this, the State Governments can be taken into confidence; but the State Governments are also helpless. They have their own situations and these are beyond the normal control.

Social inhibitions and religious inhibitions are there and we cannot discuss them openly. In order to remove them and make an entry into this difficult area, the only way is to find people to work with a courage of conviction.

In the beginning, I said, what is the conviction of those of us who are public representatives like Assembly Members and Members of Parliament. The problem is the courage of conviction with which the officers work in this field. We leave this to the doctors to explain and propagate as if they are the only agents of social will. They are technicians and they are experts in their fields; but we cannot ensure political will with

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them. As for the expert opinion and technical opinion we can depend on them. But leaving this to them alone is not sufficient. We should involve more of other professions and other social workers who can work with conviction to go into this problem deeper through many channels of opinion. Then only can we expect some good results. I do not like to take more time of the House and in the end I would say that the national policy should stop insisting on strength of population of communities and States for fixing certain privileges and rights. Then the communities will be encouraged in their sub-conscious mind to produce more and more of manpower.

With these few words I thank you for the time you have given to me and I support the measure which has been suggested in this Resolution.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE
(Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi who by moving this resolution has focussed the attention of the House on this vital issue and provided us an opportunity to participate in the debate on it. If the growth of population in a country is checked, it can advance and make economic progress in a far better way. So first of all we have to see as how to check the pace at which the population is growing. It has led to an alarming situation. The figures indicate that population of this country is increasing by 17 million every year, which is more than the total population of Australia. It was India, where family planning was introduced first but still we have not been able to solve this problem. No effective measures have been taken in this country to check the growth of population. Rajasthan, where the annual growth rate is 40.7 per thousand, tops in population growth. This is revealed by the figures of 1985. It is followed by Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where the growth rate is 40.3, 39.0 and 38.3 per thousand, respectively. Sir, due to speedy growth of population we confront a number of problems. It is not the

question of West Bengal, Kerala or Gujarat, it concerns the whole country. I would like to inform the House that Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are the states where the population is growing very rapidly. But Kerala, Karnataka, Punjab, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and West Bengal are the states where the State Governments have performed very well in implementing the family planning programme and they took effective steps to check population growth. All these States have made a positive contribution in achieving the family planning targets. On the other hand Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have taken no effective measures. I would like to cite the example of countries like China, Japan, who successfully exercised population control after the second world war. I feel that this problem cannot be solved by merely passing laws. There are already good number of laws in our country, but these are not being implemented properly. As such mere law is not enough. This growth sends the prices spiralling in our country. The State Governments are not satisfied with the quota of various commodities released by the centre because the population registers increase beyond their expectation and thus they are unable to provide food to all the people. With the rise in population many un-employed youths in our country do not get employment. I feel that until and unless effective steps are taken to contain population, our problems will go on multiplying. To-day a situation has come where the human population is growing like the population of goats and dogs. This is creating an alarming situation. Two years back diarrhoea spread in Delhi and claimed 600 lives. It is not a happy situation for us. It is a matter of regret, a matter of shame. Population must be controlled in our country. It is also the responsibility of Government whether Central or of States or the local bodies, to take care of the population because the development of the country has become stagnant. I would, therefore, like to request Shri Namgyal to set up a separate cell in the Home Ministry. The Government has launched a number of programmes for population control, but there should be a cell

to review and monitor proper implementation of these programmes and to take corrective steps.

We listened to Shri Shahabuddin's speech, which was on usual lines. But he has also spoken about a uniform civil code. Let a committee be constituted under his chairmanship but he too will fail to check population growth in this country. Just now he said, do this and do that. When in the House itself we, Members of Parliament, cannot arrive at a uniform decision, how the people outside can be expected to have one voice. We are facing food crisis in our country due to population explosion. The prices are sky-rocketing. Unemployment in our country is assuming alarming proportion. The number of un-employed youth in our country registered with the employment exchanges, has gone upto about 2 crores. But we do not know the number of those un-employed youth which have not registered themselves. Similarly the number in the unorganised sector is not know. I would like to suggest that a population control board may be constituted in our country, which may consist of intelligentsia, intellectuals, writers, press reporters, etc. You may invite suggestions from all sections of the people of the country through this Board.

My. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the reasons of population increase in our country is influx of foreigners into the border States. A large number of persons belonging to other countries enter into our country. I request you to pay due attention towards this aspect. Mr. Chidambaram, people from across the border intrude into our country in North Bengal, Bengal, Tripura and Assam. I do not know the position in regard to other States. Since the day, Bangladesh was declared an Islamic country, a vast number of people have intruded into our country and the process is still on. We have no record as to how many people have come. Both the Central Government and the State Government are worried over this problem. You may not feel the impact of this problem at present but later on when we shall step into the 21st century and our country will reach new high

of development, Government will not be able to control population. You should, therefore, pay more attention to this aspect and do something in this connection.

Sir, incentives should be given to control the population. We should also think in terms of discouraging those people who produce more children. But you do something for those persons who motivate or who encourage family planning and do good work in this field. More enactment of laws will not serve any purpose. You cannot do it yourself. You should remove illiteracy from this country and make the people educated. You explain the common man the impact of this drive through mass media. It is very essential to have involvement of the people in this work. If you are unable to involve the public in this work, you cannot create awareness among them. Now-a-days, T.V. has emerged as a popular mass media. But how many people see television these days. Radio is very important media in the rural areas as its programmes reach far flung areas. There are many villages in our country where newspapers do not reach. Number of people not having radio in our country is also for more. You should prepare schemes to create awareness among the people living in interior areas. Teams from the State, Centre and local Administration should be sent there who should convince the people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not like to take much time. But this is a very important subject. Until and unless we pay attention to it and control the population, no development can take place in our country during the next generation. When Shri Sanjay Gandhi was alive, he had launched a 5 point programme, out of which 3 to 4 related to population control, blood donation and tree plantation and also a policy of talk less work more. When Shri Sanjay Gandhi gave this slogan, a large number of people criticised him, the leaders of opposition had opposed him. But to-day the country has come to know that the slogan was very essential for the country. When we are holding a discussion on the subject to-day, I would like to apprise the hon. Minister that there is no

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

more controversy on it now and I would request him to give incentives for this. I would not like to talk of any major incentives which might create a serious confusion. Besides, our hon. friends, Shri Shahabuddin and Shri Banatwala will also be confused if I ask for big incentives. I would not like to confuse them. But I would like to say that people who accept the Government policy on family planning should be encouraged by way of promotion and incentives. But the people, whether he is a Minister, an M.P., an M.L.A. a leader of opposition or an Government official, who do not accept the Government policy should not be given any incentive. If you do not take a proper stand, you cannot control the population. If the population is not controlled, the future generation of the country cannot be healthy. There should be stability in the country's economy, the country should develop, our un-employed people should get employment, they should not starve on the roads and our factory workers should not starve. All these things are in the interest of our future generation. This is possible only if the population in the country is controlled.

I request you to accept all the good suggestions, no matter whether they come from the opposition party, the ruling party or any one else it would not be proper to believe that only the political leaders possess a healthy mind. There are a large number of people in the country who do not belong to any political party and are very brilliant people. Their number is much more in our country. You ask for their suggestions and recommendation, but somehow control the growth of population.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this is over but there are more speakers who want to speak.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO(Vijayawada): Sir, you extend the time at least by two hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, it is the consensus of the House to extend the time for this discussion by two hours.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, the time is extended by another two hours. Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I congratulate Dr. Bhoi, my learned friend for having moved this very important Private Member Resolution, which is very vital for the development of the country.

Sir, in his opening remarks he talked about the urgency and importance of family planning in the population control so as to provide better socio-economic conditions to the vast millions of people of our country. Some of the Hon. Members who have preceded me have already given very valuable suggestions. I will not repeat what they have said but I would certainly like to add a few more suggestions. With its present rate of population growth, our country is going to be the most populous country in the entire world. Already, we are nearly 83 crores and by the end of 2001, our country is going to have a population of 98.6 crores. By the year 2050, our country's population is estimated to cross a figure of 159 crores, whereas that of China which is the most populous country may have a population of around 155 crores only. Most probably, by 2040 itself, our country is going to become the most populous country in the entire world. This is mainly because of the population growth in our country, though some fall in the death rate also contributed to this increase in population. The death rate which was 27.4 per thousand between 1941-51 has come down to 12.5 per thousand by 1981. No doubt, birth rate also came down from 41 per thousand in 1966 to 33 per thousand in the Eighties.

Sir, the main concern of the Government as well as the well-thinking persons is

that while India has 15 per cent of the world's population, all these people have to be accommodated in only 2.4 per cent of the world's land area. This is our country's geographical limitation as far as area is concerned. In spite of the best efforts of the Central and State Governments as also of the Union Territories, India's birth rate is still 32 per thousand, while China's is only 20 per thousand. Our population is growing at the rate of 2.1 per cent while in China the growth rate is 1.3 per cent only.

What should the Government do in these circumstances? No doubt, several efforts are being made and those efforts have also brought results partly. But much more is to be accomplished. When we view our neighbouring countries or other countries in the world, we find that several countries have succeeded in arresting the population growth to a great extent. I would specially like to mention the example of our neighbour, Indonesia. Indonesia is a country which has a lot of centuries-old cultural relations with our country. There is Buddhist culture as well as Hindu culture in this country. Even though, 95 per cent of its population comprises Muslims, yet Indonesia has succeeded in arresting its population growth. The Government of Indonesia have contacted the Ulemas who are their religious leaders and impressed upon them that the population should be controlled if the people are to be given a more meaningful life. They have concurred with the opinion of the Government. Those Ulemas and religious leaders have themselves taken up the task of propagating among the people that they must undertake the family planning process and programmes. This has helped the governmental efforts to a great extent and as a result of it, they could bring down the growth rate of population. There the family planning programme is given a very top priority. In fact the National Family Planning Coordination Board was set up. It is directly responsible to the President of Indonesia. It is a very supreme powered body. It coordinates all issues relating to family planning. Even Communist countries like Russia and China have also succeeded in taking the cooperation of

the religious leaders. In Russia also, there is considerable number of Muslim population and religious minorities population. In China, there is a considerable number of religious minorities population. In these countries also, they have succeeded in winning the support of the religious leaders. Unfortunately, in our country it is not so. The other day in reply to one of my supplementary questions, the hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha simply said, we are doing it. Till now I have not come across a single occasion where the Government has taken into confidence these religious leaders. What is wrong in taking into confidence these leaders? Let the Government invite them for a dialogue. The Muslim countries have adopted family planning operation and no religious leader belonging to that faith can say that it is against the Quran or Islamic faith. So, they have to accept it. Fortunately or unfortunately, the people have some faith or some confidence on the *Gurus* or the religious leaders.

Similarly, in Hinduism also, a large number of people may be having a lot of faith on their *Gurus*.

My concrete suggestion is that already several decades have passed; let the Government now invite the religious leaders belonging to Hinduism, Christianity or whatever religion it may be and have a dialogue across the table and convince them and have their cooperation. I hope, definitely, it will help in your efforts for bringing down the population growth. At present Rs. 500/- is given to the people who go in for Vasectomy operation and Rs. 250/- to the people who go in for tubectomy operation. If a Government employee undergoes a family planning operation, he is being given two increments. If we calculate the monetary benefit which he derives by way of these two increments during his entire service, it will come to around some few thousand rupees. He is already educated. He is having a job. He is socially forward. He himself is conscious of the advantages that he will get if he has a small family. He can have a pleasure

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

of having a few children. By doing so, he can provide education and all other facilities. He himself knows about it. We are giving such incentives to a person who is already conscious. The people who are living in remote areas, in the villages, in the far-flung areas because of their poverty or illiteracy think that having more children is a gift of God. As my friend Shri Vijaya Rama Rao and some other friends have said, children are God's gift. He is a poor fellow. He has no land. He has no house to share with and so on. He may not be having large income for a small family. So, the Government should think more seriously as to how to convince that illiterate man in the rural area to have this family planning operation accepted. So, my suggestion is that this amount which is presently being given as an incentive for acceptance of family planning programme should be enhanced at least to not less than Rs. 500 for Vasectomy and Rs. 750/- for Tubectomy operation. Now, apart from these employees who are working in the family planning or family welfare programme of the Government, there are good number of basic health workers who are spread in every village. During 1977, when the Janata party Government was in power and Mr. Raj Narain was the Minister of Health, he had introduced a new health scheme wherein for over one thousand population, there will be one basic health worker. He works among the people in that one thousand population, he supplies the medicines, whatever is being given by the Government to the needy people, and then he gives then some advice about the diseases, to go to some hospital or he will take them there. They are the people who are living in those locations and they have got a better advantage to communicate, to convince and to propagate about the benefits which those poor and illiterate people get if they undergo family planning operations or participate in the family planning programme. Now, what is it you are giving to them? A pittance! Only Rs. 150 in some cases and in others more or less the same. For Rs. 150 how can you expect any work from them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is only Rs. 50/-.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Yes, it is Rs. 50/-. We give for on day Rs. 30/- to a male worker or Rs. 25/- to a female worker is working in the agricultural land for four or five hours, and how can you expect any work from those basic health workers, if for one month you give only Rs. 50 to them? why do you not enhance it? After all, even the lowest paid employee in our Government service is getting Rs. 1200 or Rs. 1500. Then, what Heavens will fall if you give Rs. 500 to those basic health workers, per month? That will give them some encouragement, and a satisfaction also to them, and they will in turn more vigorously work among the people, in their habitations and they will themselves propagate and they will take all such people who are eligible or fit to undergo family planning operations, that means those who have two or three children already. They know who those people are. They can take all such persons to the hospitals. I request the Government to consider and accept this suggestion.

In some countries some incentives are given. My friend Mr. Shahabuddin said that there should be no compulsion, that there should be no coercion and that there cannot be any law. But at the same time, my suggestion is that the Government has certainly a right to give incentives, to see that the people accept this programme as a national programme, as a people's which will encourage them to take up these programmes.

I want to make a few suggestions in this regard. Suppose a person has undergone an operation after one child and he is satisfied with that one child, if he himself or his wife undergoes the family planning operation, then my suggestion is that the Government may give two pairs of dresses to that child when he enters elementary school, and up to the higher secondary level you give two pairs of dresses to that child every year. Suppose a family adopts family planning after having two children, in such cases you give one pair of dress to the children.

Now, our Government in Andhra Pradesh is giving so many things, making available *dhotis* and *saris* to poor people who are having green cards, by spending nearly Rs. 30 crores at the State level. In the recent Budget it has been announced that it will give *saris* to destitute women.

what is wrong if the Government announces some incentives to the poor people in this way, giving two pairs of dresses to a small child when he goes to the elementary school if the parents undergo the operation? This will not only give encouragement to the parents to undergo the operation but this will also have an additional advantage, because our Government thinks that the human resources, will be utilised and the people of this country will be of more use for the development of this country. And we will succeed in reducing the drop-outs at the secondary level. Though at the elementary level many children are joining the school, by the time they come to the secondary level many children are dropping out. This may bring down the drop-out rate and encourage the children to continue their studies. I request the Government to consider this point also.

Similarly we are constructing houses. Our Government in Andhra Pradesh is constructing houses. We have constructed 85 lakh houses. Now, the Government is, under the RLEGP programme, giving houses to the poor people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Now we have Home Loan Account and some other schemes recognising the need to provide help to the poor and needy people. In this programme, you can give top priority to the poor person, who is eligible under economic norms a house, when he undergoes operation with one child. In China, almost all the people have accepted one child norm. In our country, we could not succeed till now. The Government should try to give incentives in this way to a poor person who undergoes operation with one child. In the matter of allocation of housesite or house, you can give top priority to a person who undergoes operation with one child and you can give top priority to a person who undergoes

operation with one child and you can give second priority to those who undergoes operation with two children. Like this, you can certainly give incentives and encourage the people. You need not undertake coercive methods just like my friend from the other side Kumari Mamata Banerjee was telling about how things have gone when Sanjay Gandhi was there. I do not want to criticise or find fault with it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): There was no coercion. You are under wrong impression. Commissions were appointed in all the States and it has come to light that not a single death was due to family planning...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Sri Ajay Mushranji, with due respect to you, peoples verdict was there...*(Interruptions)* I am not trying to find fault with it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Naturally you damage the revolution which would have come into this country by family planning programme initiated during 1975-77. The opposition took political advantage...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: I am not trying to find fault. I only want to say how things went on. What I want to say is, without giving scope for such a situation to develop, you can give incentives in this way so that people themselves come forward and undertake family planning.

Another point I would like to make. Even though we have enshrined in our constitution a directive principle that after ten years, there will not be any illiteracy or there will be universal adult education, unfortunately the literacy among women is still very low. One glad feature is that in Kerala, which is having a very high literacy among women, population control has come to a higher level. That means, in Kerala, women have accepted family planning as a must and as a result of that, the population growth is only 1.2 per cent. My submission is, let the Gov-

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[Translation]

eminent make all efforts to increase the literacy among the women, which will help in arresting the population growth.

Another suggestion is, the Government can bring a proposal that no person with more than two children will be eligible to get the Government job or the job in public undertakings...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AZIZ QUERSHI (Satna) : To become Members of Parliament also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : There is nothing wrong in it. The Members of Parliament need not be exempted. When it is a good thing, it can be made applicable to everybody. Unless you think of some such measure, we cannot arrest the population growth. I only urge upon the Government to think on this line.

Lastly I say that for decades we have been seeing that family planning methods like condoms are used by menfolk only and the same thing is continuing for decades and decades together while new methods have been adopted in other countries. Why should the Government not take certain measures to bring such changes in contraceptives that are supplied in our country? There is nothing wrong in that.

Finally, I agree with Dr. Bhoi that a National Population Commission should be set up. I suggest, let the Prime Minister head his Commission and let the Chief Ministers be the members of this Commission. This Commission should evolve new methods because we have already tried certain other avenues. Let us give new shape to family planning and let family planning become people's programme. Then only we can achieve our target, limit our population growth and thus help the poor and common people of this country and as per Mahatma Gandhi's wishes, everybody will get equal status and facilities in this society.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we were married and we produced children, we did not have so much awareness and this caused huge loss. But the present generation should remain very cautious about it.

As Dr. Bhoi has said viz there should be not more than one child in a family. If this norm is followed in our country, we can do a lot of welfare for the country. China, being a vast country and having a population of 100 crores has adopted this norm. They have set an example before us by following this norm. When a country like China could adopt this policy, why can't we adopt it. We should also adopt it. The hon. Member has laid emphasis on the point of having a uniform civil code for the whole country.

An hon. Member, who was speaking just now, was opposing the idea of uniform civil code. Thereafter, Kumari Mamata Banerjee also spoke but she did not make the point clear. These hon. Members were of the view that population does not increase by the people who keep 4 to 5 wives. They understand that polygamy leads to a fall in population. But it is definitely a wrong notion. Any effort to adopt such a notion will also definitely prove to be wrong.

Shri Bhoi has submitted that there should be a uniform civil code in the country. It should definitely be done in the right earnest. This has been the case with other countries having multi-racial population. Muslims and Christians and the people belonging to all castes, live there. They have adopted a uniform law. They have enforced uniform civil code in all civil rites, whether it is the case of marriage or any other rites. If this system is followed in our country, it will do a lot of good to our country. Otherwise, the population of our country which was 33 crores before independence and is now 80 crores, will reach the alarming figure of 100 crores by the turn of 2000 A.D. When the population is only 80 crores, our plans are being dislocated. Now 38 per cent people

live below the poverty line. They have no shelter, no food to eat, no clothes to wear. They do not receive education and get medical facilities. How can it be possible for us to provide all facilities to such a vast population. It is, therefore, very essential to check this population growth.

During the last 40 years a lot of progress has been made. No other country has made this much progress. But it seems as if nothing has been done. Let us take the case of education. I would like to make a reference to Rajasthan in this connection. Only 36 per cent men and 12 per cent women are educated in the State. How can we think of launching this programme in a State where a vast majority of people is uneducated. That is why education is most needed in our country. We can set things right if all our children are educated. Primary education should be made compulsory for both boys and girls. The hon. Member laid much emphasis on women's education, but I feel that special attention should be paid to both men and women's education. Just like the primary education, more and more children should be given middle and secondary education. Thereafter, instead of giving priority to B.A. and M.A. standard of education, more attention should be paid towards technical education so that we could produce more and more technicians who will contribute their might to the progress of the country. If necessary, these people can go for their self-employment also. But employment cannot be ensured by simply doing graduation of M.A. It is very essential to pay attention to it. We can be successful in this programme if we pay attention towards the education of both boys and girls. Otherwise we will confine ourselves in our religious activities making claims that this religion should have more population and that religion should have less population. The whole system will be dislocated in religious fanaticism. That is why education is quite essential to run the whole system in a systematic manner. Just now Shri Rao was telling that efforts are being made in other countries like China, the U.S.S.R. and even in our neighbouring country Pakistan to adopt this pro-

gramme, whereas in our country we drag religion into the question of implementation of this Programme and issue religious verdicts against it. Due to this the population increase. This sort of things must be stopped.

18.00 hrs.

How is it possible to implement this programme by enforcement of law. There can be no comparison between China and our country in this regard. Because, in China a law, once enacted, becomes applicable to all. But this proposition cannot be made applicable in a democratic country like that of ours. Just now an hon. Member was speaking and Colonel Sahib opposed his views. But it is a fact that much emphasis was laid on the population control in 1977. In 1977 the opposition parties tried to instigate the people of this country against us. During the Janata rule late Shri Raj Narain was himself the hon. Minister of Health, about whose programme Shri Rao was just mentioning that Health workers were appointed for this purpose. Today no Health worker is looking after the work of family planning programme. Shri Rao was telling that people accept the programme only when they are given various incentives like house at some places, digging of wells or supplying power or State Government should give incentives. As people have no education, they are attracted towards this due to avarice or for some incentives. We went through the family planning programme that was undertaken last year. It has been stated in the figures that one doctor had conducted 4 vasectomy or 4 tubectomy operation in a day. It is not at all possible for a doctor to conduct so many operations in a day. In this way efforts are made to give fictitious figures. There are cases where one person is shown to have undergone vasectomy operation twice such type of fictitious figures are being shown. This state of affair must be checked. This work will be successful only when Government officials, some selected persons and social workers are deployed in this task. It cannot become successful until and unless people are involved in this work and who

[Sh. Girdhari Lal Vyas]

discharge their duties honestly. I would like to make yet another submission. Our I.A.S. I.P.S. Officers and State Government Officers or those working in public sector undertakings bring cases, but the Patwaris, Tehsildars, B.D.Os, S.D.Os and Collectors show these cases against their names. When the time of awarding prizes comes, those studious workers who contributed their might to do maximum propaganda of the programme remain in the back ground. All the prize have been received by Government officials. Thereafter it discourage the genuine workers who contributed their might to make this programme a success. The system has got to be changed. Incentives must be given whether he is a collector or any other officer or somebody working in a public undertaking. The higher the authority, the more he wields his influence. Today there was a question on family planning and I had put my supplementary.

As regards the Family Planning Programme about which you have stated that health facilities will be made available to all by the year 2000. I would like to know as to how will the Government achieve this target? The Government should enlighten us about the number of the people likely to be covered under each health centre and each sub-centre? Further, whether Family Planning workers to be appointed and whether necessary medicines have been made available? How can medical facilities be available to all without making these arrangements? Thousands of such operations take place and some cases may go unsuccessful and may get complicated and post operation treatment becomes necessary. What are your proposals regarding post operation treatment? Even if the poor man is in a dying condition after such an operation, no medical help is available. Everyone is ready to get appreciation but no one is willing to make necessary arrangements for post operational treatment in case of complications arising out of such operations. Therefore, it is absolutely essential to pay attention in this direction. This will boost the morale of

the common people and they will feel that their Government takes care of their interests. If a person with one of two children dies as a result of undergoing sterilization operation and the Government takes care of his children and makes necessary arrangements for their upbringing then the morale of the people will be boosted and they will feel assured in every way. They will also grow to expect that Government will provide old age pension and they will never have to face extreme poverty. It is only after all such arrangements are made that this programme can be successful. Along with it, it is imperative to provide facilities for strengthening the financial position of the people. Unless the Common man is able to stand on his legs, he cannot think of such matters. Hence, all these aspects here to be looked into.

A National Population Commission should be appointed to control the growth of population in the whole country. Its recommendations should be implemented appropriately. All the religions should participate in it and all the recommendations should be implemented properly as only then there can be an effective check on population explosion. More funds will be required for this purpose. Government provides Rs. 2000 crores for the Family Planning Programme but most of the amount is spent in giving T.A./D.A. to the officers and the money given to provide incentives is misused. Therefore, this programme should be implemented honestly and each incentive should honestly be given for its effective implementation. The 20 Point programme seeks to provide all kinds of facilities like these of housing, irrigation, drinking water supply, education of children, health facilities and digging of wells etc. to the people living below the poverty line. This type of arrangement will encourage people and they will have more confidence in the Government and will make all out efforts in making this programme a success. If the Government is sincerely interested in making this programme successful, it should take it very seriously and with open heart. If we merely table the Budget here and make our submis-

sions and walk away it will not do. We shall have to exert full pressure and make all possible efforts in this direction. An infrastructure is needed for the development of the country. The same way an infrastructure has to be created for the control of population. Therefore, necessary infrastructure has to be created by which this programme can be implemented effectively. I hope that Government will pay special attention in this direction and will make all out efforts to implement this programme and make it a success. Only then can true welfare of the country can take place. Our development programmes will also be successful only when population is under control. We want to uplift the people living below the poverty line and we have prepared several programmes for this purpose. However, they will be successful only when we are able to control our population effectively. Only when we are able to control our population effectively. Only then can the country become prosperous and self sufficient. This is our most important target for the achievement of which the Government, the people and all the the political parties will have to make concerted efforts. It is only then that real economic growth will take place. We shall be able to check population growth through the Family Planning Programme and it is only then that we shall achieve our aim and development of the country can take place.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the proposal of Dr. Bhoi but I do not agree with the suggestion of bringing a legislation in this regard. Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore had said that the birth of every child in this world signifies that God has not lost faith in the future of mankind so far. I think that if Gurudev Tagore had been still alive when the population of this country has exceeded 80 crores, he would have hesitated in making such a statement. He would not have made such a statement at least about India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as framing a law in this connection is concerned, history

will testify that no revolution in this world has been brought by law. So far as religion and Family Planning Programme are concerned, efforts are made to show them at variance. To say that any religion is against Family Planning, in my opinion, is not based on facts. There is no truth in it. Dr. Bhoi has just submitted something about the Shariat. While speaking on Islam he referred to the 4 Imams and to their followers and to their teachings. Firstly I would like to clarify that there are only 3 basic principles underlying Islam and these are:

- (a) Faith in the Almighty;
- (b) Full faith in Quran as a spiritual text.
- (c) To accept Prophet Mohammad as the last Prophet and have complete faith in his teachings

The person who has faith in all these three things is a true Muslim and a true follower of Islam. It is not necessary to follow any other principle for a Muslim. Whatever the Imams say are merely interpretation these are individual interpretations of various people. So far as the question of Muslims and Family Planning is concerned, it is incorrect to say that Muslim are against Family Planning and I want this matter to be clarified to the people by the House. There is not a single word in Quran, Hadis, or in the teachings of the Prophet which condemns Family Planning. Wherever there has been a difference of opinion and the people have protested, they have done so against abortions. This is so because one section feels that man does not have any right to kill a human foetus since life has already entered into it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You continue next time. Now papers to be laid on the Table.