

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All right, it will not be taken up.

[English]

That is all right, if you take it like that. That is my job.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Rao.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Member speak and all of you may please sit down.

(Interruptions)\*\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing has been allowed. I have not allowed anyone. Now, Mr Rao.

12.20 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Reported alarming increase in population  
in the country

SHRI SRIHARI RAO (Rajahmundry) : I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

“Reported alarming increase in population in the country and the steps taken by the Government to curb its growth.”

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the importance of bringing about fast decline in the population growth rate is well recognised by the Government. Reduction in growth rate is a critical factor in socio-economic development of the country and it is in recognition of this fact that Population Control Programme has been integrated with the overall development planning process.

12.20 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The National Health Policy which was approved by the Parliament lays down the long term demographic goals to be achieved by the year 2000 A.D. These are birth rate of 21, death rate of 9 and infant mortality rate below 60. In order to achieve these goals it would be necessary to reach a couple protection rate of at least 60%. Reduction in infant mortality rate is a key factor in promoting widespread acceptance of small family norm. People must be assured that the children born to them will survive to convince them to take up the family planning. The maternal and child health care programme has, therefore, been made an integrated part of the Family Welfare Programme.

India's population has more than doubled itself since Independence. The 1981 Census figures placing the country's population at 685 million also revealed certain redeeming facts. For instance, the decadal growth rate which had steadily increased from 13.31% in 1941-51 to 24.8% in 1961-71 has been steadied around 25% in 1971-81. The Family Welfare Programme however received a serious set back during the late '70s. The couple protection rate declined from 23.6% in March, 1977 to 22.2% in March, 1980. During the Sixth Plan vigorous efforts were made to put the Programme back on rails. These efforts were backed by full political commitment and support, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you would be glad to know that as a result of the work done during the Sixth Plan the couple protection rate is estimated to have reached around 32% in March, 1985. Although we consider this as a good achievement but we are not allowing ourselves to be led into any state of complacency. The tasks ahead are much more challenging. During the 7th Plan we aim at reaching the couple protection rate of 42% and we hope to achieve this goal.

Control of population depends mainly on some of the key factors such as increase in the age at marriage of women; appropriate spacing between marriage, the first child and the second child; and, keeping the family size to two or less children. Due to various socio-economic, cultural and historical factors

[Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai]

girls in India get married at an early age and the desired family size is more than 3 with almost universal need for male children. With growing modernisation and development people will change their way of life and opt for lesser number of children. This will be a long term process. Our Programme aims at accelerating the process of change in peoples' beliefs, attitudes and habits so as to bring about a more swift decline in the birth rate. This we seek to do through increasing the demand for contraception and providing easy services and supplies. The ultimate success of the Programme will depend upon the involvement of the community in ever increasing measure and the provision of high quality services. Government is constantly appraising the Programme with a view to identifying major problem areas and adopting appropriate strategies. We have recently taken some new initiatives which I would like to briefly enumerate. We have taken various steps to secure the maximum involvement of various sections of the community including elected representatives of the people, intellectuals, professionals, non-government organisations and institutions in the organised sector. We are redevising our strategy for bringing about an accelerated demand generation through the involvement of professional agencies. The technological advances recently made in the mass media will be fully exploited in spreading the message of small family in an effective manner. Various measures have been initiated to improve the management of the Programme with a view to obtaining an optimum output from the existing infrastructure. The system of monitoring the programme performance and evaluating its impact is being streamlined. As a result of all these measures taken the programme performance during the current year has shown a very significant improvement. During the first quarter of the year the performance of sterilisation was about 50% higher than that in the corresponding period of the last year. The performance of IUD Programme was higher by more than 70%. We hope that this momentum will be maintained and the current year's target will be fully realised.

While Government is trying to do its

best, it has to be realised that governmental efforts in this most sensitive area of human behaviour can, at best, yield limited results. Family Planning has to become the people's movement. The Hon. Members of Parliament have a very crucial role to play. I have written to all the Hon. Members seeking their help, cooperation and suggestions on how to make this programme a people's movement. I would like to take this opportunity to make my plea once more that the role of the elected representatives of people is of paramount importance in this most vital national endeavour.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the growth of population around the world and especially in the developing countries as an alarming rate is posing a serious challenge. Poverty and population go together. Whether there is poverty, there is an unabated growth of population. As population increases, so increases the poverty. It is a vicious circle. Poverty coupled with ignorance contributes to an unhealthy growth of population. Most of the countries continue to remain poor in spite of their best efforts to progress only due to the population growth. Growing population is the main obstacle in the path of progress. By the turn of the century the gap will further widen between the developed and developing countries. The growth of population nullifies all the economic development. In India, there is a significant economic growth. Yet it has been nullified by the spurt in population. It is clear that however we may develop economically, it will have no effect unless the population growth is checked. It is expected that in 10 years of time the population of the country will go up to 90 crores from the present level of 68 crores. By 2150 A.D. India will be the most populous country on the earth with a population of about 1.7 billion. In the next 15 years the number of couples in the reproduction category would swell to 170 millions from the present 123 millions. Under these circumstances it is unfortunate that the Government continues to pursue the same old policies which were not successful in the past. There is no change in the basic policy. There is no change in either organisational

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\*The Speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

set up of management of the family welfare programmes. It shows the bankruptcy of ideas of the Government. So I want to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government would review the national policy once again? Whether there will be any basic shift in the policy with a basic change? Sir, this basic change is needed because of the fact that we could not achieve our targets earlier. Though the number of eligible couples protected risen to 32%, it is still short of 4 percentage points. Since our goal is around 60% by the turn of the century, the present policy would not take us anywhere near the target. That is why, Sir, I want to know whether there will be any basic shift in the policy to achieve better results.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, you may put your questions. On the basis of the statement made by the Minister, whatever clarifications you want to seek, you may.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Sir, there is a wrong notion prevailing among our people that only Hindus are compelled to adopt the family welfare norm, while the people belonging to other religions are being ignored. Some people go to the extent of saying that India one day would become another Pakistan. The population of Hindus will dwindle and the population will go up, according to their version. The Government should try to dispel this wrong notion. I want to know whether the Government is trying to encourage all the people irrespective of their religion or community to go for family planning by offering better incentives? The policy that the Government adopts must be acceptable to all. Whether the Government is going to pursue such a policy? Sir, the eastern countries have devised now methods to control the population. These methods can be of much help to us if we adjust and adopt them to suit our conditions. I do not want the Government to blindly implement them. I want them implemented here with necessary changes and modification to suit us. I want to know whether the Government is considering this proposal.

Sir, at present the whole programme is being managed by bureaucrats. The specialists have no say either in drawing the programme or in implementing it. These bureaucrats do not have the much needed interdisciplinary competence for the success of the programme. So, whether, at least now, the Government

would appoint the specialists in this field to manage the programmes of family welfare? Whether the specialists are going to be entrusted with this job hereafter?

Sir, family welfare and female education compliment each other. Mother bears and rears the child. Ignorance of the woman contributed to the failure of this programme in the past. So what are the steps that the Government have taken so far in educating the woman and especially the illiterate woman?

There is a lot of disparity in the incentives now being offered by the Government. While the Government servants get extra increments and enjoy its benefit life long, others who are not Government servants get a paltry amount which is not sufficient even to cover the medical expenses. Hence whether the Government would enhance the amount now being offered as an incentive to the people who are other than the Government servants on par with the Government servants? The benefits should go to all equally whether they are Government servants or not.

The programmes over AIR and Doordarshan should be such that which can motivate the people to go for the family planning. Whether the Government is going to reorient their broadcasts in this respect?

Sir it is unfortunate that the medical care after the sterilisation is very poor. We do not have sufficient medical facilities to look after the persons who have undergone operation. Couple of months after the operation, certain complications develop which need the immediate attention of the doctor. So a regular medical check up is very necessary. When I was the Munsiff of our village, I was entrusted with the job of bringing 400 persons for the sterilisation, which I did. Sir, after the operation there was nobody to look after these people and treat them for the complication they had developed due to sterilisation. There was no doctor available. Finally, I had to seek the help of local Lion's Club and get them treated. So what I say is that even after the operation, the Government should see to it that the persons who have undergone operation will be under constant medical supervision for at least 6 months. Whether

[Shri Srihari Rao]

the Government proposes to take steps in this direction ?

Sir, our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi wants to take the nation to 21st century. I appreciate it computers are being used in all fields. But, Sir, this electronic revolution should not be restricted to the industrial sector alone. This technology can as well be applied for monitoring the family welfare programmes. I want to know whether Government has any intention of computerising family welfare programmes in the near future ?

Sir, restricting the population growth is very much necessary for our development. An all out effort is needed by the Government. I hope the hon. Minister would reply to all the questions I posed.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has not given any suggestion. He spoke on this issue just in a general way. He has asked what steps have been taken to contain the growth of population. He knows it well and it is a fact known to all that one of the greatest problem of the country is the growing population and it is of utmost importance to contain the growth of population. There are no two opinions about it. It is not the responsibility of the Health Ministry alone. In addition to our efforts, unless there is people's participation in it and every Indian considers it his responsibility, all our programmes would come to naught.

He has asked what the Government machinery is doing. You might remember what our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said. She had said, that it was people's programme and it was for the people. So, we want that besides our Government machinery, which is already engaged in this work, we need your help also. I had written letters to all of you, Block Pramukhs and M.L.As, etc., in this regard to take up this work in their constituencies. You may be aware that when this programme was undertaken, it had received a severe setback in 1975-76. In 1976-77 the number of acceptors of family planning was 12.5 million which came down to 4.7 million in 1977-78. Therefore, in 1980 we again paid attention to it. It is a matter of satisfaction that today we have the same political commitment which

we had earlier. Now I can say that our colleagues sitting on the other side are also grasping its importance. Now they have started thinking in this direction and we would like them to extend their help in this programme. I would like that they should go to their respective constituencies to propagate this programme. So far as the population growth is concerned, it is not that only babies are born, the infant mortality rate is also very high. You should also see the constraints before our society. Just now you have mentioned about other countries. The European countries are not facing this problem but yesterday mention was made about China in the House. We cannot follow that method in our country which China is adopting. In view of the fact that ours is a democratic country, all of us decided that it should be carried out on voluntary basis. In the National Health Policy which was approved by this House, it has been decided that this task will be carried out on voluntary basis, though education and motivation, so that it may become part of life. I can prove with the help of statistics that work in this direction is in progress. The work may not be going on with the desired speed but you see the constraints before us in this regard.

In our society the system of early marriage is still prevalent. It contributes to the growth of population and impairs the health of the women. It is necessary for us to propagate against the practice of early marriage. We have enacted a law that forbids marriage of a girl before she attains the age of 18 years. But even today if you to the villages, you will find that children are married at the age of 10, 11, 12 or 15. This is a great hindrance in our efforts.

It is not necessary that we should stress only on sterilisation. As you have suggested, we can propagate for spacing method. So, we have asked the Medical Council of India that an extra course should be included in the medical course so that the students who pass out from the medical colleges and become doctors should know about all these things and take interest in them.

We all know that when the country got independence, there was very little gap between the birth rate and the death rate. But after independence, when we provided medical facilities, the death rate which was



47 and 48 per thousand came down to 11.9 in 1981. The reason for its coming down was that medical facilities were provided, people were educated and drinking water was provided. Our target is that this rate should further come down to 9 by 2001 A. D. We can contain diseases by providing medical facilities. Cholera, plague and other diseases have been eliminated but so far as the population growth is concerned, unless there is people's participation in it and unless it is taken up on war footing, we cannot bring it down so early.

You have said that sometimes misunderstandings crop up in the name of religion. I think any educated person who thinks that small family norm is good for us and for the nation, is not bound by any inhibition. Ours is a democratic country. So, every type of misunderstanding is floated here for political gains. We have seen its result in 1977-78. I am sure that the atmosphere which is building up in the country and the help which will be received from you will help us in achieving success in this regard. It is a big problem and our aim is to overcome it. To achieve our aim, it is necessary that we should rise above the political considerations and keep the national interest in mind and take it as a national issue so that this big problem is solved.

[English]

**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO** (Vijayawada) : The hon. Minister has explained how certain steps are being taken by the Government to bring down the population growth a faster pace. In our country, during the period from 1901 to 1947, in all those 47 years, only 50% increase took place whereas from Independence till now it has more than doubled and it is mainly due to the steep decrease in the death rate due to extension of medical facilities to very large areas and also anti-poverty steps taken by the Government, increased irrigation facilities and increase in production of food crops, pulses and all these things. The present thinking is that our population will reach nearly 100 crores by the year 2000 and as the Minister has rightly said, this is an issue which is of a very-very important nature.

Unfortunately, because of this failure to arrest the increase in the population growth, what all efforts that are being made for planned

development and raising the standard of living are nullified. Our real per capita income has not made much progress and in all these 15 years, when we compare with the 1970-71 prices, the income which was Rs. 632 in 1970-71 is Rs. 712 now. So practically there is no increase. So the growth rate is 2.25% in our country while it reached almost the zero rate in several European countries; especially in West Germany, East Germany and in some other countries, it is a minus percentage.

Apart from the steps which the hon. Minister has mentioned in her answer, she has also made very clear several steps that have been taken by the Government. I will not narrate all those things. But I would like to make some more suggestions which I request the hon. Minister to carefully examine and try to implement. Of course, apart from the steps we take, we should also try to educate the people regarding the urgent need. Though the hon. Minister has said that during 1977-78 certain lack of commitment was there, it was not lack of commitment but it was the sad experience the people had during the emergency when due to the over-enthusiastic drive of the people in charge, it has had a negative impact on the people. Even people who have lost the fertility capacity were operated and people who were not married were also operated. I will not go into details.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE** : That is by way of abundant caution.

**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO** : Suffice it to say that through voluntary methods and efforts, certainly this nation will rise upto the expectations. Of course, we will have to put in more efforts and right from the student days, the students should be given an idea that population control is absolutely necessary for the nation's interest as well as in their own interest because as future citizens of the country they have to be given all facilities and assistance for development from the Government, they should control the population. From the childhood days itself they should be mentally prepared. Family planning should be included in their curricula. Concentrated efforts should be made to educate people belonging to all religions. No religion says that you produce more children. Some people for some

[Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

reasons may be advocating people to produce more children. Government should undertake vigorous propaganda that to whatever faith they belong they should resort to family planning. In China apart from other steps they have taken they are taking very stringent measures to encourage the people belonging to minority communities to take to family planning. Similarly our Government should also take it up.

Women should be given equal rights. Government says that they are giving equal rights whereas in practice it is not being fully implemented. Unfortunately, in the Hindu faith there is one belief among people that son will be of much use to the parents at an old age. Government should see that belief gets diluted from the minds of the people and even if there is a girl certainly she will be of help to the family. That type of confidence we should inculcate in the minds of the parents.

Similarly, the Gram Panchayats should be permitted to purchase T.V. sets and out of this amount 50 per cent should be given as subsidy by the Government. As compared to radio and literature, T.V. will have more impact on the people especially in regard to family planning enlightenment. Government should take all necessary steps for encouraging T.V. and especially some programmes telling about the benefits which the people will get by adopting family planning. The increase that you have made from Rs. 70 to Rs. 100 is very meagre. There should be substantial increase so that these people who have one or two children should come forward voluntarily to undergo operations. When you are giving so many incentives to Government employees, incentives to ordinary people should also be increased.

The hon. Minister has said about the scheme to issue green cards to individual acceptors of terminal methods after two children. It is a welcome idea. I request the Government to introduce a blue card to individual acceptors of terminal methods after one child. Even with two children our country is going to have enormous population. But there should be no coercion. If a family wants to take to family planning certainly Government should give more incentives to those people and especially in the matter of preferential treatment mentioned by the

minister. I also request that regarding extension of medical facilities to the weaker sections, housing schemes, integrated rural development programmes, integrated tribal development programmes, etc, in all these programmes priority should be given to those who have undergone family planning operation and who have responded to the Government call for undergoing family planning operations. Preference should also be given to these people who have responded to Government's call over others who have not undergone family planning operations. Apart from this, the birth rate of 20, death rate of 9 and infant mortality rate of 60 by the end of year 2000 A.D. cannot be attained unless more funds are allocated to medical, health and family welfare programmes. Sir, we are very very far behind when compared to other countries in the matter of development. They are all far ahead of us. So, I would request the Government to allocate more money for medical and family planning programmes so that these programmes are implemented successfully and attain the level of economic development and our standard of living and our per capita income should also reach to those levels of several other countries which have attained independence later than our country. I am not comparing our country with the USA or any other Western countries. I would once again request the hon. Minister to consider all these suggestions for implementation.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : In regard to the suggestions given by the hon. Member, I would like to say that it is proposed to include population education in the syllabus of the schools and colleges. Secondly, the incentive money or the compensation money has been increased from Rs. 100 to Rs. 120. The Green Card system has been introduced so that they may get preference in the matter of housing or in purchasing land or in other things. Similarly, many States have introduced Lottery System also.

As regards the progress of work pertaining to the family planning, to a great extent it depends on the interest taken by the State Governments in it. We simply give them guidelines but the results are achieved in

proportion to the interest taken by the State Governments. In the country, there are a number of States which are doing good work and there are some States where the work is not being done satisfactorily. There are different schemes for them. It is our endeavour to goad those States which are not doing good work and to encourage those which are doing good work in this field. It is an admitted fact, as you have said, that female education is lagging far behind in our country. The States like Kerala, which have a high percentage of female education, are ahead in the family planning work also. There the infant mortality rate is far less than the national mortality rate. They are doing good work in the field of family planning. So, it is essential that more attention is paid to female education in the States and health education and population education are included in the curricular. You can see that in our national health policy, we have given importance to 'Mother and Child Health Care' along with the family planning work, because no couple can be persuaded till they are convinced that arrangements to look after their living children exist. The infant mortality rate is very high in our country. However, we are trying to bring it down gradually. In 1921, the figure which was 110 per 1,000 has declined sharply now. Many hon. Members have said that our figures are not correct but, I think, if you see the figures of the last ten years you will find that all the studies, which were conducted, have revealed that the people in the rural as well as urban areas are aware of the importance of the family planning.

13.00 hrs.

Our efforts are to strengthen the infrastructure through which we can provide more and more facilities. We propose to increase the number of health centres, primary health centres and community health centres so that we may be able to provide more and more facilities to the people. Health Guides have been posted in each village. We have posted fully trained traditional Birth Attendants in each village to ensure smooth and safe delivery.

We are trying to strengthen our infrastructure so that we could educate more and more people and provide more and more facilities to them. Efforts are being made to

implement Family Planning Programme with the consent of the people. You have suggested that institutions like Panchayat, Corporatives and district councils should also be involved in this work. We are trying to involve everybody. For this purpose, we have written to the Chief Ministers and other Ministers also. A meeting of the voluntary organisations has also been called. They have also been involved to the maximum extent. I organise meetings of the voluntary organisations of the State which I visit. I would like to request the hon. Members of Parliament to motivate the people in their respective constituencies. People will listen to you. In this way there will be greater involvement of non-official agencies. It is our endeavour to seek your cooperation and if we get your cooperation, I feel there will be some progress.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is very strange that on this issue, four Members of the Telugu Desam Party got the opportunity to speak. Out of the four, already two people have spoken—one in English and one in Telugu. Since we people know three language formula, I propose to speak in Hindi... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai has enlightened us to a considerable extent. We have gathered a lot of information from her reply to the various speeches. Still, two or three questions have remained unanswered. I shall not take much time. I would only like to know the views of the hon. Minister. All the family welfare schemes referred to by her are voluntary schemes. Money is required to implement these schemes and as such funds may be provided therefor. As you know, in China, force was used to accomplish this task. Socio-economic conditions are

[Shri C. Madhav Reddi]

different there. Money was not needed there to such a great extent. Still, I would like to point out that during the last 10 years, China has spent ten times more money than us. Despite the fact that money is not needed, their family planning budget is more than their agriculture budget. I have come to know that an amount of Rs. 1400 crores had been spent during the last Five Year Plan. I think the correct figure is Rs. 1438 crores. During the Seventh Plan, an amount of Rs. 4800 crores has been proposed to be spent. I have come to know that this amount has been reduced to Rs. 3256 crores. It is a matter of great regret. Why was the Family Welfare Programme signed out for making the cut? Funds can be mobilised from anywhere. Unless funds are made available, this programme will not prove to be a success, because all the schemes introduced during the last 30 years have been successful in motivating only the urban middle class. You have stated that couple protection rate has gone up, which is true about the urban middle class only. Which scheme has proved to be a success in the villages where major part of the people live? Terminal method or sterilization programme has proved a success there. The propagation work done or the literature etc. distributed by you does not have any effect on the rural population. You will have to pay more attention towards the terminal method. During the Seventh Five Year Plan you have fixed a target of three crore people to be covered under the terminal method but it is doubtful whether you will be able to cover this number. You have fixed this target of three crore people keeping in view the availability of funds to the tune of Rs. 4000 crores from the Planning Commission. You may be able to achieve this target if the amount of Rs. 4000 crores was sanctioned. You will not be able to achieve this target because an amount of about Rs. 3000 crore only has been sanctioned. I fear you will not be able to push up the schemes which are suitable for the rural areas. Please explain it in your reply.

You have stated that at present couple protection rate is 32 per cent and during the Seventh Five Year Plan you propose to raise it to 42 per cent.

[English]

By the end of the century, you want to achieve a target...

[Translation]

I again started speaking in English—Will you be able to achieve a target of 60 per cent by the end of the century? Will you be able to give protection to those people? Protection does not mean this much only. It is, of course, a very good word. I also like it very much because you are not only providing protection to the couple from unemployment, but you are protecting them from fertility also. It is also a very good word because fertility has become a disease these days. You are using a very good word to avoid it. It appears that the Family Planning Department is adept in coining words. I feel that the figure of 32 per cent is somewhat exaggerated. I am not prepared to accept it. If you are able to provide protection to 32 per cent couples, it will be a great achievement, But has it been achieved in actual practice?

Our friends have stated here just now that our growth rate has gone down to less than two. I am not prepared to accept it. Some of the friends have stated that it is 2.5 which is utterly wrong. You want to bring the growth rate to two by the turn of the century. If you are able to do so, it will be a great success. I apprehend that you will not be able to achieve this target because your planning is defective. You earmark for every item, huge amounts are spent on big river valley projects, but you are not spending so much money on the Family Planning Programme. Family Planning Programme is not a new programme. It has been there since 1950. In 1950 you had fixed the norm of 3 children per family. At that time the slogan was that there should not be more than 3 children in a family. But with the passage of time this target has been changed and you fixed the norm of two children per family and not more. But now it has also become irrelevant. In many countries like China, a norm of one child per family has been fixed. Hence our Family Planning Department should propagate the norm of one child per family. But it does not mean that a family should have only one child. However, our norm should be one



child on an average per family. But who will agree to it? Unless you go to the rural areas and persuade the common people, the harijans, the adivasis, the backward community people and the poor, it is not possible because children are an asset for them. We all know it very well. You talk here about male or female child. I do not agree with you. In the rural areas a boy or a girl starts earning at the age of 3 years. Earning livelihood is the major question there. Children are a source of income for them. So long as this mentality is there, this attitude will continue. I do not say that this should not be there. It should be there because their socio-economic conditions compel them to think like this. Unless you give them certain incentives and inducements and unless you spend more money on this programme *i.e.* unless you give them an incentive of Rs. 500 or Rs. 1000 in each sterilization case, you will not be able to make this programme a success. In 1956-57 we gave Rs. 100 to the people. Some States gave Rs. 150 whereas others gave Rs. 200. It is a must because their motive to produce more children is economic. We should understand this and we should provide them with some incentive. We waived the land revenue in Andhra Pradesh. I say it with regret that land revenue has been written off in all cases without any reason. We should have laid down a condition that land revenue would be waived in all such cases where people have undergone sterilisation operations. But we missed this opportunity. Now there is trend in all the States to waive land revenue on some pretext. Therefore, if an announcement is made to the effect that whosoever undergoes sterilization operation, his entire land revenue will be waived, people will come forward in such a large number that it will not be possible to accommodate all of them because of inadequate capacity. I, therefore, request you that the present allocation of funds should continue and no cut should be effected in it.

Just now an hon. Member said that our population would increase to 1000 million by the turn of this century. In other words, the population of our country will be 100 crores by 2000 A.D. and then we will have no food to eat and no house to live in. Then the country will have to face ruination as is happening in Ethiopia at present. In Ethiopia, the people are still dying of starvation and famine is stalking that country

because they could not take steps to control the growth of their population in time. Now the nature is playing her role in reducing the population. We should make tremendous efforts in this direction to see that such a situation does not develop in India. However, we have done a lot in this field. We should persuade the people. You are doing considerable work in this direction. You are writing letters to us and the Chief Ministers. As we are aware of the problem, there is no need of writing letters to us. You should write letters to them. If they do not understand then I shall say :

*Agar na samjhoge to mit jaoge ae  
Hindustan walo,*

*Teri dastan bhi na hogi, dastan—  
bayane*

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member that he has appreciated some of the steps taken by us and has also given us some suggestions. Firstly, I would like to tell him that this contention is not correct that the impact of our effort has been limited to the urban population only. I would like to give the statistics of 1983-84 in this connection. Under the programme which we undertook in 1983-84, about 70 per cent of the people living in the villages were motivated and 72 per cent were covered by the devices like the I.U.D. The position is not what you are thinking. Now the people in the villages are aware of the benefits of a small family. As regards funds, we are allocating funds for it as much as we can, keeping in view our economic condition. We tried our best to increase the allocation but we could not increase it in the Plan. Thirdly, the hon. Members said that we wrote them letters. We write letters to you because you are the elected representatives of the people. The advantage of writing you letters is that we can get the desired work done through you in your respective constituencies. So, we want your involvement. It is a matter of pleasure that we have reached a stage where the political issue and mutual differences are insignificant in the face of this problem and we are putting our heads together to solve this problem. But so far as education is concerned, our social problems, economic conditions, economic backwardness are proving hurdles in the implementation of the programme. Female education is one of the

[Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai]

main problem because its percentage is still not high in our country. Even where there is female education, the programme does not have the desired effect due to lack of awareness. So, the need of the hour is to propagate the Family Planning Programme in all earnestness because the norms of our society are such that we do not take the programme seriously, rather we treat it lightly. This is our main hurdle.

An hon. was saying that if we looked at the per capita income, we would find that there had been progress in every field, like agriculture etc. I do not want to count them. But when the question of propagation comes, we are lost. So, there is need to increase the infrastructure in the villages.

In the pre-independence days, there used to be one hospital in each district, but now because the facilities are available, we want that the services of the dispensaries should percolate to the lower level also and we are doing it also. I have no doubt that we shall be able to do it. If there is commitment and the political will then the task will definitely be accomplished. Today we need the cooperation of all to carry out this task.

At present there is one centre for a population of 5,000. It is true that all the facilities are not available there but I cannot agree to it that nothing is available in our infrastructure, in the hospitals and in the primary health centres. Now we are paying attention towards the villages so that the people may get facilities and the mother child health programme may proceed in a better way.

We have many other schemes like universal immunisation programme. Under this programme we have selected 30 districts at present in the whole country. We are hopeful that by 1990 we shall be able to complete this task, *i.e.*, that mothers shall get their children upto the age of 2 years immunised to save them from disease. It will bring down the infant mortality rate. Both those things have to go side by side.

The I.C.D.S. programme is going on. We have taken up the Integrated Child Development Programme. We want to extend these programmes gradually, so that they reach the lower strata.

You have mentioned about "one child norm". We do not discourage it, but our present policy is that of "Two Child norm". So far we are not in a position to think that one child would be sufficient. Of course, China has done good work in this field but as I said earlier, ours is a democratic country and we cannot take steps which other countries have taken. We still say that we do not discourage the people who adopt the one child norm. We provide the sterilization facility to those people also who have one child and those who willingly want to have one child only. There are a number of families who do not want a second child but we cannot adopt this as a policy.

As regards the villages, we are putting in the same efforts there also and the people in the villages willingly want it also, but there is need to educate them. Now they realise that the concept that more children means more earning is wrong; on the contrary, it creates more troubles. This change is coming gradually but it should be speeded up. We are taking steps in this direction. We are sure that we shall complete the task.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall not take much time. Among the developing countries, India is one such big country whose material, economic, social and cultural disparities are increasing rapidly. But, since independence, the population has increased at the same pace at which the disparities have increased. The moot point is what would be the fate of the country if the population goes on increasing like this. Increase in the population is harmful for any country.

Sir, before independence, the population of the country was 38 crores and now it has touched the figures of 68 crores and 51 lakhs. This increase has unfortunately been tremendous. It is true that we have been successful in containing the mortality rate but we have failed to contain the birth rate. The birth rate is still increasing at the rate of 2.25 per thousand per year and at this rate our population would be 95 crores and 17 lakhs by the end of the 20th century.

As hon. Member has stated that Rs. 1400 crores have been spent but I would say that keeping in view the pace at which the

population has increased, this amount is very little. You have opened health centres at the Panchayat level for every five thousand population in the villages but despite opening of the centres to propagate the programme and the health centres, you have not been able to check the growth in population. You will have to make arrangements for their accommodation and education. Those poor people have no house to live in. All the family members live in the same hut. They have neither radio nor television for entertainment. You will have to provide them with means through which they could get entertainment and also know about the family planning programmes. These poor people know only this much that when their son is five years old, he will do some odd job like cattle grazing and earn his livelihood. You will have to pay attention to this aspect particularly.

Regarding education, I would like to say that if you see dispassionately you will find that the grant given in the villages for the education of the poor and the harijan student is used by their parents for other purposes because it is not given in time. The grant for 1984-85 earmarked for the poor harijans has not been paid to them as yet. As a result, their education will be discontinued. Thereafter, they will do odd jobs like grazing the cattle or cultivating the fields. You will have to pay attention to all these things.

An hon. Member has just said that the money spent on this programme is very less. But if land revenue is waived in the cases where people adopt the family planning norm, people will surely adopt it. Otherwise the condition of the Family Planning Programme is such that only those people have adopted it who have been helped by nature. It was mentioned that some years ago, incentive of Rs. 100 and Rs. 50 used to be paid but we found that those very persons used to come again who had get it earlier. In this way the agents are becoming prosperous through such corrupt means. Unless we put an end to this corruption, the programme cannot be successful. Already there are hurdles in implementing this programme and whatever money you allocate for it is misappropriated and is not spent for this purpose.

I would like to draw your attention to the sub-centres set up by the Government.

You say that it is responsibility of the State Governments and we only lay down guidelines; then why is this matter being raised here? What is the condition of the sub-centres? The employees posted there to do the work do not stay there. The doctors who are posted to these sub-centres do not join their duties for as long as six months. So, you will have to make improvements in it also. If this problem could be the cause of the ruin of the country, and you carry on the work like this, how can you succeed in your efforts? Recently, we visited Moscow. There we saw an exhibition depicting their 26th progress. In the exhibition there was a message from the Government to the women in which an appeal was made to them to procreate four children otherwise legal action would be taken against them. Firstly, you try to remove hurdles in the way of implementing the programmes. Only by replacing the capitalist system by the socialist system you can control the growth of population.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: The hon. Member has given a number of suggestions. All these had been covered in the reply already given by me. I would like to request the hon. Member to give me suggestions in writing if he has any more in mind. We shall look into them.

[English]

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam): Sir, I do distinctly remember an occasion, recently in the current session, when the Congress Benches Members had demanded conversion of a Calling Attention mention into a discussion under Rule 193 so that they may also have an opportunity to participate in the discussion. But this is the subject only where they are not evincing any interest to participate. I think this itself explains the interest which the ruling party has shown towards this subject. Let the hon. Minister take notice of this in the first instance. This is the Opposition which is extending every cooperation. Every speech made by every Member of the Opposition has uniformly extended full and unstinted cooperation for the entire programme which the Government has taken up.

When the Government is sincere and earnest and very keen about achieving certain targets and certain goals, can they also simultaneously

[Shri S. M. Bhattam]

think in terms of bringing out a legislation to this effect, and can they think in terms of imposing a reasonable limit on the size of the family? They may also consult other political parties if necessary. Let there be a national consensus on this matter. A new policy has got to be evolved and formulated. So, why not think in those terms? Unless the Government thinks on drastic lines and brings out certain radical changes, it is very difficult to say that they would achieve the desired goal. It is, of course, true that the people have now-a-days become conscious and one gradually taking to family planning measures.

I would like to make one of two observations. There is a marked difference in the rate of growth of population in the developed and developing countries. In the developing countries population grows by leaps and bounds, whereas it is slow and tardy and very low in developed countries. The population of developed countries is estimated to grow from 1.2 billion to 1.4 billion by 2000 A. D.

Let us now see the position in the under-developed countries. Population in the developing countries during the same period is expected to grow up from 2.6 billion to 8.4 billion. This shows poverty and faster rate of growth of population go together. Poverty is a curse. Poorer sections are blessed with greater number of members in the family, whereas the affluent sections are conferred with the benefit of lesser number of members in the family. Fertility declines with the growth in the general level of socio-economic development. Poverty leads to population increase and population explosion also leads to poverty. This is a vicious circle and you have to break this link. Therefore, there should be a two-pronged attack. You will have to raise the living standards of the people in general and also motivate the people. These two programmes should simultaneously go ahead.

Planning and family planning are basically integral part of one and same policy. They are linked together. There is a link between the progress and success of planning and the success and progress of family planning. Similarly, family planning programme is linked up with the success of planning and development. Development is not possible at all unless

slow rate of population is achieved. In fact, family planning is an integral part of the economic planning, as was made out by the Minister earlier at the time of giving her first statement.

1981-82 was a time when the Sixth Plan was being given final touch by the Planning Commission. At that time the Director General of Census revealed that they had now to take into account 23 millions of population. The population growth rate was not 33 per thousand but 36 per thousand. That revolution had come at that time. Therefore, the Planning Commission had to do a lot of re-thinking and restructuring of the entire Sixth Plan. Therefore, the increase in population is a matter of national concern. If you do not look into that you cannot achieve progress.

Between 1901 and 1951—during the period of fifty years—the population increased by 52 per cent—from 24 crores to 36 crores. Between 1951 and 1981—the period of 30 years—the population increased by 90 per cent *i.e.*, from 36 crores to 68.5 crores. Can India's land support such a large growing population? With the ever increasing number of families, land is being fragmented and landless agricultural people are increasing in number year after year and as a result poverty accumulates and numbers multiply.

Now, let us see what is its impact on the urban areas. London was the second largest city in the year 1950.

But it would not rank even among the first 25 largest cities by the turn of the century, because rapid population growth in developing countries creates such situations. It also creates serious economic problem. I agree that there should be a national approach to this problem. There should not be only partisan attitude in matters of this nature. We are one with the hon. Minister when he said that we must rise above the party considerations and put our shoulders together and solve this major national problem without which the country's progress will not be achieved in the direction in which it is necessary. The hon. Prime Minister made an announcement recently and it has appeared in the Press. He said that Government will be giving a package of incentives in respect of family planning and that they will render certain help to those



who adopt these family planning measures. But the Health Minister has not made any mention about this. It also appeared in the Press that an amount of Rs. 50 per month per family will be paid in the entire country for a period of 5 years for all such families who take to this method. Along with poverty-alleviation programme you should have this programme also and this programme should be linked with your poverty-alleviation programme. You will have to offer the necessary incentives to the people and you should also take up the responsibility to increase the standard of living of the people and ensuring that this programme is voluntarily resorted to by people in the rural areas also. Thank you.

[ *Translation* ]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised two points which have been answered by me in the course of the reply given to the points raised by other hon. Members earlier. So far as the question of introducing same legislation is concerned, there is no such proposal under consideration at the moment because as I have repeatedly said we want this to be done on voluntary basis, purely on voluntary basis keeping in view the conditions in our country. The issue of giving Rs. 50.00 per month as incentive is under consideration, it has not yet been decided, but it is necessary; we want this to be done, whether by giving incentive or by educating the people. Giving incentive is a different matter. In my opinion small family is in itself an incentive. People should be made aware that a small family is as much in their own interest as is in the interest of the Government. This Government is theirs this country is theirs and it is the need of the hour to have small family. People are now realising it. It is not only in the Government's interest, it is in their own interest also. I am grateful to you all that you raised this matter and invited our attention. I feel that all of us should and will have to ponder over this issue with all seriousness and all of you will have to extend help. It is true that the Health Ministry is responsible for it, but all of us should work in the country's interest... (*Interruptions*) Particularly the youth..... (*Interruptions*) The youth should shoulder the responsibility of vigorously propagating the movement and in this International year

of the youth. I think we should carry the message of small family and of family planning.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : The youth are very active in this matter, it is the elders who are to be planned. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Elders have committed that mistake. It is now over... (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member expressed his doubts about achievement of 32 per cent couple-protection rate. But I think the population would have increased much more if these figures were wrong. The percentage figure would have been more if we had shown 45 per cent or so instead of 32-33 per cent. There may be a variation of two to four per cent in the figures, but they show our gradual progress and prove that there is awareness among the people now.

I have covered almost all the points. I once again express my thanks to the hon. Members for inviting our attention to this issue.

14.45 hrs.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[ *English* ]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 12th August, 1985, will consist of :

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Consideration and passing of :
  - (a) The Tobacco Board (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
  - (b) The Terrorist Affected Areas (Special Courts) Amendment Bill, 1985.