

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mool Chand Dagaji is against it.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : In this respect...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No cross talking.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Apart from that, the final court of the land has made a pronouncement. If *malafide* is alleged or if it is alleged that extraneous facts were taken into consideration, then the court can interfere, since, in the eye of law, there would have been an absence of the subjective satisfaction of the President or the Governor.

In the judgment, these considerations are there.

Another important guideline given by the Supreme Court is that a Government servant, who has been dismissed or removed from service or reduced in rank by applying to his case clause (b) or (c) of the second proviso to Article 311 (2) or an analogous service rule can urge in appeal or revision that an inquiry should be held with respect to the charges on which such penalty has been imposed upon him, unless a situation envisaged by the second proviso is prevailing at the time of hearing of the appeal or revision application. Even in such a case, the hearing of the appeal or revision application should be postponed for a reasonable length of time for the situation to return to normal.

These various safeguards in the judgment itself are there and I think that itself will take care of the fairness and also of the administrative whims.

So far as education is concerned, the new education policy has come and Government is taking very positive steps on this.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is...

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, he himself said that he would request the Labour Minister to clarify about the interim relief for the journalists...

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1986-87 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : I will now put the Clauses to vote.

The question is :

"That Clauses 2, 3, 4 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3, 4 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the question is :

"That clause 1, Enacting Formula and Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Guidelines to States on Family Planning

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House will take up the half-an-hour discussion by Dr. G.S. Rajhans.

16.21 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhunjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this discussion has been put off twice and I was thinking this time too it may not be postponed.

In this connection I have to say 2 or 3 things. In the Sixth Five Year Plan, out of the allocation made for 'Health' 65 per cent was allotted for 'Family Planning' and that amount was spent also, but the States could not get much benefit from that. In our country the family planning has remained a national movement since 1952, but the country has not benefited much from it. Around 1952 our growth of population was 43 per thousand, whereas it came down only to 33.9 per thousand by 1981. From 1981 to 1986 it continued to be 33.9 per thousand. During the last three to four years, situation has become alarming. We have spent large amounts on this 'Head', but the benefits are not to be seen around.

During the first half of 1985-86 it was found that the family planning work in the five prominent States was not at all upto the mark. These States are Bihar, U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what he has done to make the family planning work effective in these States. I am quoting from the Hindustan Times of 13th January, wherein it has been stated :

[*English*]

"Bihar is by far the worst of the lot. In the first six months of 1985-86, it did not get to even 20 per cent of the sterilisation target for the period. In conventional contraceptives and oral pills, too, Bihar has not achieved the modest targets set for it."

[*Translation*]

After this it has been said that :

[*English*]

"It was these five States which were principally responsible for the

country's 11.1 per cent decline in sterilisations during 1984-85."

[*Translation*]

I would like to tell you one more interesting thing :

[*English*]

"The number of sterilisations carried out by the other four States during 1984-85 are as follows : Bihar 2.91 lakh against the targetted 5.71 lakh; Madhya Pradesh 2.53 lakh against 5 lakh; Rajasthan 1.36 lakh against 2.94 lakh and West Bengal 2.71 lakh against 4.88 lakh".

[*Translation*]

What I want to say is that has the Government thought of about the impending population explosion in the country which is going to be bigger than the explosion of even the atom bomb ? Is the Government aware that by the turn of the century India will be the most populated country of the world ? China since the beginning of the programme adopted the principle of one-child per family and the result is that population of China has been controlled to a large extent. In the matter of over-populated countries China by the beginning of 21st century will be relegated to number two position whereas we will jump to number one position. Is the Government thinking of any population policy ? Will the Government change the present slogan—'Two children for each family' to 'One child for each family' ?

AN HON. MEMBER : How many children you have ?

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : I have no children.

I have read the replies to the Starred as well as Unstarred Questions given by the hon. Minister during the last three to four months in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The answers are quite interesting. It seems that he has one or two officers who reply in ditto to every question asked on family planning. Will the family planning too will work in the manner in which the

replies have been given? I had read a speech of the hon. Minister delivered by him somewhere in which he had stated that some progress has been made this year. I would like to know as to what was that progress and what is he doing further to that? Why progress has not been made during all these years? Large sums of money have been spent on family planning programmes, but has any one ever bothered to know as to where this money goes? I may tell you that in rural areas all the vehicles of the Family Planning Department are being very conveniently used for private business.

In the villages there is very interesting thing to be seen about the family planning. I had stated earlier also that I showed a board to villager in a village and asked him as to why he was not following the things said therein? It was written on the board that we are two children of mummy and papa and we will have two. That villager replied me that this family planning is for mummy and papa and not for us. We are poor people and we know only 'maa' and 'baap'. Even now whenever I go to the village I see that board. That is why I want to draw your attention to the fact that how much you have spent and how much people are bothered for family planning. You say that you will provide incentive. What type of incentive you are giving? You may fix a rule. Give a package deal to the people. In our country male child is in much demand. To have one male child, a person goes on precreating 5 to 6 children. Can there not be any rule or a way out that a person who gets himself sterilized after the birth of one daughter will get a sort of social insurance wherein the State may go on depositing gradually some money in his name so that during his old age he may have so much money that he may not need any more income for his maintenance?

He would not require any assistance as he would get pension from the Government, which would be sufficient for his maintenance. Thus, after getting this social security he would not have any desire to have a son.

Secondly, you talk about the Family Planning, but have you ever thought of the injustice done to the women. Why do you

not educate them to this level that they may declare they that are not one's slaves and also would like to give birth to one child only. Can't the Government educate them in such a way?

Thirdly, in 1977, people raised hue and cry against the atrocities committed during Family Planning programme and as a result Government slowed down its activities and the funds went down the drain. Would you please constitute a Joint Committee, consisting members of both the Houses, to look into the indifference of the Government towards Family Planning measures after 1977 and why the same had not been successful.

Besides, I also want to know as to how you monitor the programme. Merely writing to the State Governments and filing the replies received from them—will not serve the purpose. You make a review after a lapse of three months, why do you not make a review every month?

Have you ever made efforts to inform the people about the factual position and magnitude of the problem. Earlier, there used to be an advertisement by L.I.C. in the newspapers that a lady escaped from being ruined as her husband had a L.I.C. policy and the family was covered just after paying only two instalments. Do you not have people with imagination who could advertise in this manner that there were two couples of the same age group, one of them gave birth to eight children and the other gave birth to only one child. Therefore, the later one is leading a very happy life. The first couple had to spend their entire income on their eight children, whereas the second couple spent only on one child, therefore they had a flat, a car and all other facilities. Do you not have any person with imagination who could make publicity in this manner?

You send people to villages for motivating people to adopt family planning methods, but what motivation the people are receiving. It is very strange that they can't even tell the people the simple facts which they should have told the people. You might have read it in the newspapers that some people had visited the villages to make publicity of Nirodh, but they could

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

not tell the people as to what they had to do. After 6 months, when they visited the same village again, they found the Nirophs hanging and they were surprised to find that the population of the village had increased. I mean to say that this is a very serious problem which needs a lot of efforts. The children especially the girls should be taught at school level about population control, and one should not feel ashamed of it. Because our resources are limited, but the number of people is increasing. If our population continues to grow, it would lead to chaos and disorder. My constituency is a densely populated area. Old Darbhanga District of Bihar is one of the most densely populated areas in Asia. There are twenty children in a single family. Someone asked a child, as to how many brothers did he have, he replied that they were twenty brothers. Again when he was asked as to what was his father's profession, he answered that this was his only profession. Sir, I want to tell you that those twenty boys lead an unhealthy and miserable life. Are we not responsible for this? Is not the Government responsible for this! We cannot shirk our responsibility by giving the plea that we have spent so much funds on this and now increasing population is not our headache. Due to the improved hygienic conditions death rate has been reduced by 50% and birth rate has remained constant at 33.9 per thousand. Would it now lead to a decrease in population or growth of population. You may make your best efforts, but unless population is controlled, the country can not make progress.

Therefore, I shall request the hon. Minister to reply to the points which I have raised.

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : Sir, let me, at the outset, congratulate the Hon. Member of Parliament Dr. Raj Hans for raising the issue of population control and sterilisation and implementation of the family welfare programme in this House and through this House before the nation.

Sir, the Government fully agrees with the Hon. Member that the success of the

family welfare programme is vital to the success of all our national efforts and across the entire spectrum of nation's socio-economic development programme.

Sir, our Hon. Prime Minister has given the highest priority for the family planning programme in his agenda for the nation, as he is leading this nation to new vistas of achievements.

India was the first country to take up family planning a Governmental programme. The Hon. Member is entirely incorrect as to the total achievements of this programme. As per the authentic records certified by independent researchers, in the last 35 years of programme operation, we have been able to prevent about 7.5 crore births in this country. This means that had it not been for the family planning programme, our population would now be 82 crores as against 74.5 crores in actuality. The Hon. Member also mentioned quite incorrectly that funds are being wasted. Sir, 2400 crores of rupees only were spent for the programme from the beginning in 1951 till the end of 1985. If you divide it by 7 crores, the number of births prevented, this programme has spent only Rs. 345 per birth averted in this country. This includes part of the cost of 11000 primary health centres and 80000 sub centres. We have created in the programme a reservoir of one million trained personnel.

Sir, today in India 90% of the eligible couples are aware of the family planning. 60% have the knowledge of the method.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : They may not be at all aware.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : You are not aware Sir. I am talking of the eligible couples. This is by independent market research studies.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Do you mean to say that he is not eligible !

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : 90% of the couples are aware of the need for family planning. This is confirmed by the latest diagnostic study which we have conducted. 60% are aware of the methods. Out of every 100 couples, 35 couples have already

accepted family planning in this country, 27 by sterilisation, and 8 by spacing methods.

Sir, we agree with hon. Member that there have been many shortfalls in the programme in the past especially in relation to the northern States. Some of the States where we have conducted the survey indicates great under-utilisation of the infra-structure including the State from which the hon. Member hails. I do not want to go into the details but the deficiencies relate to the doctors not being available, the infra-structure being under-utilised, the workers not being sufficiently motivated, poor quality of technical services like post-operative care, paucity of lady doctors, dis-satisfaction with the behaviour of staff, etc. These lacunae are being progressively corrected. I would like to tell the hon. Member that he has unleashed the criticism on the programme at a time when the programme is showing a tremendous change towards higher achievement.

I would like to mention in this House that even though in the first six months of the year the performance of the programme was not that satisfactory, the figures which we have got upto 31st March show that the performance of the programme in 1985-86 is an all time record. We have been able to enrol this year 19 million acceptors. We have achieved about 90 per cent in sterilisation and near 100 per cent in all other methods. As regards northern States it is encouraging that U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar have shown achievement of about 50% to 80% more than their performance last year. This is primarily due to the political commitment of our Prime Minister who reviewed the programme every month. This political commitment is being progressively operationalised in the field through the Chief Ministers and down to the grass root level. The hon. Health Minister, Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai and myself have extensively toured all the major States conducted detailed review and sought to create a motivated core group of leadership in all the States of the country.

I would like to mention to the hon. Member that at the instance of the Prime Minister—as has also been mentioned in the President's Address to the joint Session

of Parliament—the Department of Family Welfare has prepared a new revised effective strategy for the family welfare programme which seeks to take family planning to new heights and make a break-through in the remaining four years of the Seventh Five Year Plan. If the hon. Member has occasion to read this strategy, I am sure, all his mis-apprehensions will be removed. This strategy seeks to take the family planning, beyond the health and family welfare infra-structure or network to the entire range of relevant social engineering field including the status of women in society, female literacy, child survival, linkage with anti-poverty programme, old age security and increasing the age of marriage. As the hon. Member is aware in the very State he is coming from almost half the young women between the age of 15-19 years are married. Child marriage is a problem especially in northern India. This strategy also seeks to energise and enhance the infra-structure. It seeks to professionalise the multi-media effort through radio, television and print media so that very imaginative messages based on target groups specific approaches reach the entire population. The entire communication strategy is under review. We are going to launch macro level or national level programmes for increasing the age of marriage, universal immunisation and re-inforcing the two-child family limit. In this country I would like to say categorically on behalf of the Health Ministry that we do not advocate the one child family norm. It is too early to advocate it because infant mortality rate is high in this country and we cannot afford to push the one child family norm at this stage. Our norm continues to be the two-child family unit. We are also going to have campaigns on individual family planning methods. We are going to have campaigns to increase motivation of our large trained manpower in the country. These motivational and communication campaigns which are on the anvil will be visible to the hon. Members and they will be on stream ready within some weeks or months from now.

Sir, for the nation as a whole, this year our sterilisation achievement is 18.3% above last year, our I.U.C. insertions are 25% above last year, the C.C. Users are 10% above last year and the oral pill users are 13.7% above last year. The achievement

[Shri S. Krishna Kumar]

varies in difficult States. For four States namely, Gujarat, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Punjab the achievement in sterilisation is more than 100% of targets. In I.U.D. Insertions, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have achieved more than 100% of the targets. Sir, we have a constant two-way communication system with the States. In the last Conference held by the Health Ministers, the major problems of the States have been identified and they are being corrected. Sir, this strategy, in addition to revising communication and propaganda approaches, is going to rationalise the incentives. That is one point which the hon. Member emphasised. We are going to have a incentive system, which is structured, in which a couple who adopts the two-child family limit is going to be given higher incentives. We are also going to give higher incentive to couples who are going to limit their children even if they are female children or girls. We are going to have a bond scheme or an insurance scheme which will give old-age security to people who are willing to limit their families without male offspring.

Sir, this country has wide variations in infant mortality and couple protection, wide variations in the out-reach of the Governmental and infrastructure, wide variations in health services, wide variations in the customs, traditions and resistance pattern to family planning. The new strategy prepared at the instances of the Prime Minister seeks to incorporate an area specific, a group specific approach and a target specific approach which will concentrate on the resistance pattern which will increase infrastructural outlay to backward States such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The entire programme implementation machinery is sought to be streamlined. We are going to have an inter-sectoral coordination of the family welfare Department with other socio-economic development. This strategy takes family planning into broader dimensions involving family literacy, child survival, women status and employment, anti-poverty programmes, rural development and so on so that the grass-root level workers in the villages act in a coordinated fashion—it is in the villages and urban precincts of the

country that 160 million eligible couples live. Each of these eligible couples have to be from the stage of non-awareness to awareness, knowledge and acceptance. This is possible only if in addition to the propaganda and educational efforts sustain inter-personal motivation effort is organised. The success of programme in countries such as China and Indonesia is due to the fact that there are a large number of committed grass-root level workers who pursue each of the individual couples for motivating them. We have decided, as a very big break-through in the programme, to create a cadre of two million women valunteers at the grass-root level in the country, one for every sixth eligible couples, these will be the volunteers activists for women status and employment, child survival, nutrition, female literacy, family planning, maternal child care and other allied services. The hon. Member asked a particular question whether it is in relation to the dip in the programme performance during the Janata regime. After the Emergency, the programme has seen many vicitudes in its history.

In 1976-78, it had reached an all-time high record of 12.5 million acceptors. At the start of the Janata Rule in 1977-78, the family planning programme performance dipped to one-third, that is, there were only 4.5 million acceptors. This has been mainly due to misconceptions about the programme, rumours and other resistant factors predominating. We have now been able to put the programme back on the rail and it has slowly gained momentum and as I said, we have reached this year the figure of 19 million acceptors which is fifty per cent more than the record at the time of emergency.

The hon. Prime Minister has directed the Department to achieve targets over and above those prescribed in the 7th Plan, keeping the programme at the same time an entirely voluntary movement, protecting the dignity of the individual but emphasising peoples' cooperation and community participation, improved programme management, so that, as Shrimati Indira Gandhi had wished, this programme will become a genuine peoples' movement.

The new strategy, it is hoped, will be finalised at the highest level within a month

or two. Thereafter it will be implemented on the ground.

The hon. Prime Minister has promised that subject to improvements being achieved, the funds will not be a constraint in the implementation of the family welfare programme.

To conclude, we have simultaneously launched the Indira Gandhi Shishu Jivan Raksha Karyakaram which seeks to achieve universal immunisation of all Indian children and expectant mothers. We have to cover eight crores children and nine crores expectant mothers in the next four years. This is the biggest child survival effort ever attempted anywhere in the world, which will cut down infant mortality in the country by half and will *inter alia* boost the acceptance of the family welfare programme.

I would like to assure the House that this Ministry is committed to achieve the family planning targets over and above those stipulated in the 7th Plan. This Ministry is committed to translate the wish of the Prime Minister of putting this country on the targeted path of early population stabilization. We hope to reach, what is known as reproductive rate of unity by the end of the century when the population will be about ninety eight crores.

Sir, there are 700 Members of Parliament and 4000 Members of Legislature in India. A part of the strategy of popular participation is seeking the leadership role of the representatives of the people in the population movement. Discussions in Parliament and outside will help to generate enthusiasm and support for the programme.

I request the fullest support of the House and the hon. Members irrespective of party affiliations for making the family planning programme an outstanding success in the years ahead.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already the Minister has answered in detail. You may please put your question only to elicit further information.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : In answer to Unstarred Question No. 334 on

26th February, 1985, the Minister has himself stated :

"The performance of the Family Planning Programme during the 6th Plan shows that the overall achievement was around 30 per cent of the target."

Even for getting through an examination, minimum 33 per cent marks are required; students with 30 per cent marks fail in the class.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : That must be a typographical mistake. The performance during the 6th Plan was 80 per cent.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : This is what is stated here. Then, further it is stated that the family planning performance depends on a number of factors.

Please see what is the money unspent in Tamil Nadu? Money which is not spent in the State of Tamil Nadu is Rs. 576.53 lakhs. In the State of Punjab it is Rs. 975.09 lakhs. Then in Madhya Pradesh, it is Rs. 572.29 lakhs. Now I come to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. In this State, the money unspent is Rs. 1.40 lakhs. In Himachal Pradesh, it is Rs. 630.02 lakhs. So, this is the answer. Money has not been spent in many of the States.

SHRI S KRISHNA KUMAR : I would like to give the correct figure.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Contraceptive has its side-effects. I, therefore, want to know if you are going to adopt any other methods or not. You have planning for Laproscopy, but by what time male-vaccine would be available in the market.....(Interruptions) In what way do the officers spend the funds, what is their accountability. How many abortions have been done in the last three years and what incentives have you given to those persons.

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY : Please speak something about M.T.P. also.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Our Doctors are saying correctly. You are also spending a lot of money in Seventh Five Year Plan.

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

[English]

More than 600 crores has been spent.

[Translation]

Are you going to pass any legislation in this regard, if not, then how are we going to achieve success in Family Planning.

[English]

Late Smt. Indira Gandhi said :

"If there is one issue on which nation's consensus is most urgent, surely it is family planning."

[Translation]

What are the names of the voluntary organizations which receive funds from the Government and have you ever fixed their accountability. How much is being spent on the Parliamentary Forum for M.Ps. Do the voluntary organizations work in villages instead of teaching M.Ps.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Mr. Deputy Speaker, if our population growth is not arrested, the day will not be far away when we exceed China and stand first in the world with regard to population. The hon. Minister has, in great detail, explained several measures that have been taken by the Government and also that are going to be taken in the near future. But through you Sir, I want to know two things. Firstly, at present the Government is giving advanced increments by way of incentives to the Government employees who undertake family planning operations. This actually results in several thousands of rupees.

19.00 hrs.

Ultimately, you calculate the financial benefit that has accrued to the employee because he has undergone the operation. Sir, the Government is very kind enough to be very considerate to the employees who are well-off and who have got all the opportuni-

ties to get a very good education to their children, but at the same time, it is not that considerate to the rural poor or the urban poor. They are giving only Rs. 150 for Tubectomy operations and Rs. 75 for vasectomy operations. So, I want to know, through you and I suggest that this incentive should be increased to Rs. 500 for tubectomy operation and Rs. 250 for vasectomy operations, per person, who undertakes this operation because ultimately, it is this incentive which motivates the rural poor, who otherwise feels.

If he has more children, he will be very secure and in his old age the children will take care of him. That is the general motto and feeling among the poor people. So to motivate them, the present incentive is not sufficient. The Government should increase it to Rs. 500 and Rs. 250 respectively. So, through you, I want to know whether the Government is prepared to increase it to that level and the second thing is that in our country, what we feel is there is less response from minority communities. Recently, when we had been to Indonesia, we enquired how the family planning process was going on there, 90 per cent of the people belong to Islam. They are following Islam. There the people are taking to family planning methods and they are trying every method and effort to control the population growth. And when we enquired, we have been told that the Government have invited the leaders of the religions and they discussed with them the need for arresting the population growth in the largest interest of the nation as well as the people for their socio-economic development and they have agreed and cooperated. Now, they have succeeded to a great extent in arresting the population growth. So, through you, Sir, I enquire from the hon. Minister whether our Government also invite the leaders of all the religions—Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Jainism—and discuss with them and try to impress upon them and involve them in this very important national item, in the interest of the nation and take their cooperation also to educate the people who have got every belief in what they say rather than in what the Government say. Some people have got all faith in what the Government say, but there are many more people who listen only to the leaders of those religions. So, will the Government also try to do that, make an effort and involve the leaders

of the religion so that our Government's effort will be more successful and we will be more successful in preventing the population growth. These are the two points which I want to know from the hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the hon. Minister.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, as regards the first point raised by the hon. Member, Shri Daga, the figures quoted by him regarding the Sixth Five Year Plan achievements are not correct.

Sir, as regards the Sixth Plan, I have the figures with me here. Our achievement is 79 per cent for sterilization, 81 per cent for IUD, 83 per cent for condoms and for oral pills, it is roughly about 80 per cent. Of all the methods, I am not aware, where he has got the figures of 30 per cent. In any case, it is incorrect. I have given Government's authentic figures.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Mr. Daga is also provided information from Government libraries, and not private ones.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Again, there is no lapse of funds in family planning programme, as mentioned by Shri Daga, because fundamentally, the family planning programme is a totally Centrally funded scheme. The States perform the functions; they conduct the programmes and get reimbursed by the Central Government, to the extent to which they perform; and, therefore, there is no question of lapse of funds. It has always been a continuous process of our exceeding the budgeted allotments, from year to year. For instance, at the end of the 6th Plan, we spent about 30% to 40% more than what was given to us in the beginning.

The side effects of laparoscopy are within 1%, which is allowed by technical committees. We are aware of the seriousness of the side effects, and the negative effects of the programme. It has been our effort to contain the side effects, or reactions; and we have well-tested-out methods of constant supervision and review, to see that the technical services are kept at the highest possible level.

From 1972 to 1984, we have done 34 lakhs of Medical Termination of Pregnancies. These are the accepted figures. But I would like to tell the hon. Members that this figure is likely to be an under-estimate, because many of the medical termination of pregnancies go unreported.

This Government does not feel the need for any separate legislation for family planning. There are many activities in the country, for which no legislation is required. We want this programme to become part of the lives of the people. In case any legislation is necessary for any specific aspects of the programme, we shall consider it at that moment.

Voluntary organizations are sought to be involved in an increasing manner in the programme. That is one of the main planks of the programme. We assist in a major way, 30 to 40 voluntary organizations; but we will be assisting thousands of voluntary organizations in the coming years. We have a separate strategy for it.

The Indian Parliamentarians' Forum on Population is not being assisted by us substantially. We give them only some funds for the conduct of seminars and so on; and I am sure that involvement of Parliamentarians even in a national way will help us considerably in improving the impact of the programme among the public.

As regards the other points raised, the whole question of incentives is under review. We are aware that by giving one advance increment to a Government servant for undergoing sterilization, sometimes the Government servant gets, over the span of his career, even Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000, especially in the case of higher brackets of Government servants, whereas the common man gets only a one-time compensation of Rs. 100 or Rs. 120. This is under review. We have already had discussions with the representatives of officers, and of other Karmachari Associations in this regard. We will be taking a view. As I said, the whole question of increasing and rationalizing the incentives, to give greater scope for incentives, is also under consideration. But I would like to mention to hon. Members that we do not want to make

[Shri S. Krishna Kumar]

this an incentive programme. We want to concentrate on the educational effort, and improving the technical services, so that people will take to family planning in the normal course, and not as a result of, or as a response to incentives given by Government.

This question of some of the minority communities lagging behind in the programme is over-emphasized and exaggerated. From the 1983-84 figures of religion-wise acceptances, if we calculate the ratio of the percentage of people from each community accepting family planning, divided by their percentage in the base population, we find that for Hindus it is 1.02 per cent, that is, they accept more or less on their proportion in the population. In the case of Muslims, it is 0.7 per cent; they lag beyond about 20 to 30 per cent. But some people think that this community is not accepting family planning at all. That is totally incorrect; there is 70 per cent acceptance. In the case of Sikhs Community, it is about 2 per cent it is double their ratio in the population. In the case of Christian Community, it is about 1 for the minority group—their acceptance is almost the same as for Hindus.

In the new strategy which we have adopted, we will concentrate on the education of the lagging group. I do not want to mention them as religious groups. We are going to have a district-wise

strategy; for each district, we will intensify the educational and motivational effort so that the gap can be progressively bridged. The whole exercise of revising the sterilisation has taken into account the latest diagnostic market study by very competent agencies in which 30,000 people have been interviewed in the last four months. We have gone through all the aspects of the programme. We have made an analysis in all the studies conducted by the Department in the last 31 years and have come out with an imaginative and comprehensive strategy and it is this strategy which is proposed to be implemented.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : If it is done at the national level and government takes steps, it will show very good results.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The participation of all opinion leaders including religious functionaries is one of the components of this strategy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 A.M.

19.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, April 24, 1986; Vaisakha 4, 1908 (Saka).