

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

that you all agree. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

[ranslation]

" That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. P. KALIAPERUMAL : I withdraw the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Item No. 19. Shri Kashiram Ran - Not present.

Item No. 20. Shri Ram Naik
- Not present.

17.36 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Increasing Population in the country

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we have got sometime. We have also got an important subject to discuss, that is about the population problem, under Rule 193. If you all agree we can take it up now. I take it

SHRIRAMVILASPASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are going to discuss an issue which is not related to any political party and I am happy to note that the hon. Speaker himself took interest in holding discussion on the issues that have not been discussed in the House during last few years and he took the decision in consultation with all the members of the B. A. C. Today the attendance in the House is poor though we are going to discuss an important issue.

Thanks to the farmers of the country due to whom we are self-reliant in agriculture sector and have been able to face this severe situation arising out of the population explosion. But, the day the fertility of our fields comes to a stand still, the situation will be explosive. The land has its own limitations. America has three times more land than we have today but its population is one third as of ours Canada has one and half times more land than that but its population is very less but our population is increasing. We have 2.4% of the total world land but our population is 16%. This population is increasing day by day. I would like to present some figures before the House :

Country	Population in 1950	Population in 1992
United Kingdom	50 million	58 million
U. S. A.	52 "	255 "
Japan	83 "	124 "
Italy	87 "	58 "
Germany	72 "	80 "
France	42 "	57 "
Canada	14 "	27 "
Australia	8 "	18 "

Today our country is holding the second position after China in the world. The population of China was 560 million in 1950 which is 1167 million today. If we combine the total population of our country along with the population of Pakistan and Bangladesh, it comes equal to the population of China. Pakistan and Bangladesh were parts of our country. Today, if we see the population of Bangladesh it comes to 113 million and the population of Pakistan is 120 million. If the population of Bangladesh, Pakistan and our country is combined it comes to 1150 million.

That is why I have mentioned that on one hand our population is on the rise and on other hand our resources are limited. While sitting here in Delhi, we plan to make arrangements for schools for certain lakhs of children for a particular year but by the time we implement that plan, our population is increased two fold. If a school building is constructed in England, the number of children in that school remains the same even after 10 years but in our country if a school building is constructed for one thousand children, the number of the children reaches upto 10 thousand by the time it is completed. That is why, I have said that this problem is not related to any political party but it is a serious problem which is above party politics.

There are three types of countries in the world—one of them are the higher income countries, where the per capita income is high in comparison to the other countries, like U.K., U.S.A. Japan, Italy, France, Canada, Australia. The population of these countries has not increased to the extent as that of middle income countries or the low income countries.

The population of the middle income countries like Algeria, Korea, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Thailand and Poland has

comparatively increased. The population in low income countries like Afganistan, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, India and Pakistan has increased at a much high pace particularly, during the last few years. The main reason for this phenomenon is the climate of those countries. India is also among those countries who have hot climate. In hot climate countries, the productivity age among boys starts at the age of 15-16 years, while in girls it starts at the age of 13-14 years whereas in cold countries, the productivity age among boys is 20 years and in girls it is 18 years onwards. Therefore, the climate of a country plays a decisive role in population growth of a country.

The second reason of population growth is illiteracy. Everyday, it is shown on T.V. that after every 1.2 second a child takes birth in our country. Fifty children take birth in a minute in our country and in one hour the figure reaches 3000 children which means 72 thousand children take birth every day in our country. In this way, the population of our country is increasing at the rate of 1.75 crore per annum. It is true that due to better health services, the average age in our country has gone up to 59-60 years in 1992, while it was 32 years in 1950 but on one hand, we have controlled death-rate while on the other hand, the population of our country is increasing with the same pace.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to the figures available with me show that we have 3,28,72,631 square kilometre of land which is just 2.4 per cent of the total land mass of the universe whereas we have 16 per cent of the world population in our country.

The most disturbing thing is that in 1901 the population of the country was 252 million which rose to 359 million in 1950 and in 1993 it reached 90 crores. It reveals that from 1901 to 1950 the population of the

[Sh. Ram Vilas Paswan]

country increased by one and a half time whereas from 1950 to 1993, it has increased two and half times. The situation is explosive. The result of such a situation is that 70 per cent people in the country do not have proper housing facility. They either live in huts or in such houses where no facility exists. Today, why the people from the villages are migrating to Delhi? Why the people from the villages are migrating to Calcutta, Bombay or Madras? Because they are not getting the basic facilities like electricity, road and proper housing there, what will happen to a country like ours where 70 per cent population cannot afford even a hut.

Mr. deputy speaker, Sir, in our country 4 crore people either do not have houses or they are living on pavements. Just now, I was going through the statistics; in 1950, 170 kilograms of foodgrains was required per capita per annum in Asia Continent. But in India, even today it is 140 kilogram per annum. To accommodate this growing population of our country, we require 25 lakh additional houses, 1.26 lakh schools, 3.2 lakh teachers, 4.3 lakh additional employment opportunities, 1.2 crore quintals of foodgrains and 175 crore metres of cloth every year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, in the light of all these problems it seems that the problem of growing population is the gravest. There are several reasons for it and the Government spends lot of money also to solve these problems. As we know, during seventh five Year Plan Rs. 3256 crores were allocated for family welfare and this amount has been raised to Rs. 6600 crores during the Eighth Five Year Plan thus making it double the amount allocated in the Seventh Plan In spite of all this, the Government is not getting the expected results and there are reasons for it. Our social traditions are mainly

responsible for it. Even today, our country is a male dominated one. Even in ancient times of Ramayana also, we find that King Dashratha had to perform a yajna to have son. According to one of our traditions, no person can go to heaven if his pyre is not lit by his son. Thus it has become a tradition that one must have a son. In villages, even today people bless their youngsters for having hundred sons. We shall have to do away with the old traditions of which we have been proud of. Rs. 6500 crore has been allocated for family planning but the deserving people are not getting its benefit. Salaried people living in Delhi are educated people and they understand that they cannot rear more children. They, therefore, find out ways in this regard. But in rural areas, one cannot easily buy contraceptive pills. In Delhi also, one cannot buy contraceptive pills as easily as Onacin. In the name of ideals, all the evil deeds are going on in the country. Neither we have followed the Western countries nor our own traditions.

A National policy on population should be formulated. Sanjay Gandhi had his own thinking in this regard, but this issue was mishandled by the administration and it committed excesses and emergency was imposed. It would have been better if the Government had supplied background material regarding action taken by it before the members spoke on this issue. In my view no political party should try to have political mileage out of it. The basic issue is that a national policy should be formulated to curb the rate of increasing population and in the meantime the Government should have general consensus at the earliest including the change of viewpoint of the people living in villages.

In our country, people wear 20 meter long turbans whereas in foreign country, skirt of 2 1/2 metre is worn by a girl. We have

introduced a ten metre long saree and on an average durability of a pant is equal to the durability of five sarees. We feel proud of wearing turbans. We have never given a thought to economise the use of cloth hand water and how to use nutritious food. We have not been able to wipe out superstitions from the minds of people living in villages and to tell them properly about the norms of small family and its advantages. They say that the god has blessed them with son and if they have more children, they will be able to work more and earn more. The result is that population is increasing rapidly. Increase in population is but natural in a country where 51 per cent people are illiterate. The rate of increase in population in Kerala is 1.3 per cent where 90 per cent people are educated. This problem is ever increasing in countries where illiteracy is more. This problem does not exist in developed countries but in the developing countries and the Countries having low income which do not have proper housing, drinking water, education and medical facilities for their people, this problem has been continuously increasing.

20 years earlier, plague and cholera were considered as divine wrath, smallpox was called 'Bari Maa' and no treatment used to be given for it. T. B. too was considered a divine wrath. Even today in tribal areas, people believe in existence of witches etc. There is no such thing as law and order in those areas. Superstition is a social evil which causes problem of rapid increase in population. In our society, mothers with daughters and fathers with sons cannot talk freely. In cities, cable televisions have been installed whereas there is no such facility in villages. People these have to live a censored life. There is a need to think with open mind in this matter. Here we have all the facilities but in villages, the poor have small huts in which they live. You have created an

impression in the minds of the people that men and women relation is only meant for producing children. Therefore, the foremost need is to wipe out such thinking from the minds of people. If the government has good intentions it should give it wide publicity.

18.00 hrs.

The Government can supply contraceptives free of cost through fare price shops. It will lost the cause. But we have already seen that the number of vasectomy operations does not cross the figure of one lakh at any given time. The vasectomy operation is not only expensive, it brings bad name also to the Government whereas the benefits in proportion to the expenditure made are very less.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Paswan one minute. Shall we sit for some more time ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I am concluding now. Tomorrow, I will not be here. I am going to Calicut, Kerala in connection with the State Backward Classes Commissions' Conference.

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to emphasise that there is need to change the attitude of common people and to formulate an effective national policy in this regard after discussing the issue with all the political parties. From the Janata Dal's side I assure you that we will support the Government in taking any effective steps in this regard.

With these words, I hope that

[Sh. P.P. Kauaperumal]

Parliament would be able to take an important decision in regard to this serious matter after the debate. I thank you for allowing me to speak on this issue.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deograh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you kindly do one thing. You ascertain in the very beginning from the hon. Members who are likely to participate in this discussion as to what is the number of issues they are having and if they do not have more than one, then only you allow them to speak, otherwise not.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Sir, he is right. Anybody who has more than one child, he should not be allowed to participate in this debate.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi) : How many issues the hon. Member will be having after this debate ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Members are realising it very late. Should they regret for that ? Should they be denied to have more ?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, kindly instruct the Minister in charge that he

must circulate papers on which the hon. Members can express their views. There must be some background paper on this.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, you make it compulsory that in future only those hon. Members who have only one child will be allowed to come to Lok Sabha so that the people get a message. Otherwise, there will not be any message regarding this.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : Will this be applicable to the Minister also? If any Minister who has more than one child, will he be allowed to continue as a Minister?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : That is correct. But that should be made applicable only in the future.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : So, the House will not be in a position to sit for some more time.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It you ask the House to continue still further, then we will ask for Quorum.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet on Saturday, the 18th December, 1993 at 11.00 a.m.

18.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, December 18, 1993/Agrahyana 7, 1915 (Saka)