

17:00 hrs ...

Many people get employment in these small and medium scale industries. But these small and medium scale industries are ruin with the help of the loans advanced by the financial institutions. But there are legal complications which cause delay in advancing loans to these industries which results in their closure. Therefore, it is the need of the hour that taking into account the importance of small and medium scale industries, the Government should reduce the legal complications and give relaxation in the rules of the loans so that the existing large number of small industries in the country could be revived and the people who have been rendered jobless, may get their employment in these industries.

Sir, I would like to submit that ours is a poor country and the lower income group people live here. They have little capital and they strive hard to set up their own small scale industries. But due to lack of co-operation from these financing agencies and small scale industries are being closed down. Therefore, Financial Institutions should finance those small scale industries particularly who are on the verge of closure. All-out efforts should be made to assist them for their revival.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is now 5'o clock. You can continue next time.

17.02 hrs

DISCUSSIONS UNDER RULE 193:
INCREASING POPULATION IN THE
COUNTRY - Contd.:

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now

take up further discussion on the situation arising out of the increasing population in the country and measures taken by the Government to check the same raised by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan on the 17th December, 1993.

Dr. Kartikeswar Patra was on his legs. The time permissible is two hours; time already taken is one hour and 37 minutes. So, the balance time is only 37 minutes.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (BALASORE): Mr. Chairman, I had already started discussing on this topic and had stated that every year we are adding more than two crores to our population. This is a grave situation.

The Writer of the Asian Drama discussed threadbare the problems of Indian life. He stated as follows:

"India being a spiritual country is not careful about its future which is going to be thrown into darkness because of its rapid growth in population. Only God can help if they are not careful by themselves."

This is the statement of one eminent writer, eminent economist of the world. Still we are encouraged to see the strength of kuru vansha where Gandharva gave birth to 100 sons and still we are waiting that on astham garbha may a powerful person like Shri Krishna would come. We are waiting for this. This is the spiritual atmosphere of our country.

Birth in a situation, critical situation where we are standing now should be discussed. If we look back, we will find that in 1951 National Family Welfare Programme was long thought. Then in 1952 India adopted its national policy - control on population.

A very core part of that national policy.

[Dr. Kartikeswar Patra]

But so far Government has not taken any bold step in adopting any legislative procedure to control rise of population.

In this House one resolution was moved on 31st March 1989 by Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi. In the Rajya Sabha it was earlier moved on 30th July 1982 by Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandari. In Rajya Sabha the resolution was moved like this:

"This House notes with grave concern the growth of population at the rate of 24.75 per cent in India over the last decade, as per the census report of 1981. It concerns India and it is conscious of the fact that this unchecked growth rate will lead to a population over a billion by 2000 A.D."

He also mentioned in his resolution a very serious thing. He has raised the point that the issue of family planning and welfare be recognised as a national imperative transcending all party differences.

He has mentioned about the acceptance of small family norm of a couple and two children; he has also mentioned that vigorous steps be taken for raising the level of education of women. If women of our country are not properly educated then nothing could be done. That should be the first and foremost motto of the Government. It should be seen as to how the literacy among women folk should be increased. Then urgent steps should be taken for a uniform civil code.

Here I may mention about the Civil Code. In our Civil Code there are Muslim laws, Hindu laws, and so on. It is our apprehension that Muslims, by religion, are not

bound to have family planning. I will mention about the Muslim monogamy and Shariat. We believe that, according to Koran, nobody should be compelled for any family planning measures. But in Malaysia Family Planning Act was passed in 1966. Most of the Muslim countries, like Pakistan, Egypt and Bangladesh have adopted family planning measures. In India the Government apprehends that if we adopt these sorts of measures, then the Muslim community will be dissatisfied with the Government.

For your information I am stating something more.

17.10 hrs

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *In the Chair*

The age for marriage, or the marriageable age now is notified as 18 years. After 18 years one becomes a major and matured. That should also be rectified. In China the marriageable age has been codified to be 25 for females and 27 for males.

Here I will mention another reason why effective steps should be taken to issue a regulation regarding increase in the age of marriage. I suggest that measures should be taken for strengthening medical care to improve the health of the mother and the child.

Another point which has been pointed out and discussed in this House is the proposal that a National Population Commission should be formed. It should be formed under the Chairmanship of the hon. Prime Minister if we sincerely believe that increase in population should be controlled. Otherwise we cannot go in for any sort of developmental work.

I have already said that if we make

certain development, it does not help actually in the sense of the development of the country if we do not control our population.

During Pandit Nehru's time, the Architect of Modern India, the National Family Welfare Programme was launched. At that time itself in 1950 to 1960 it was witnessed that the percentage of growth of population in decimal figures was 1.79. That was the highest achievement in controlling the birth rate or controlling rise in population. Subsequently, in our country we have also witnessed that during the time of Shrimati Indira Gandhi some measures were taken but they were not accepted by our countrymen.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Kartikeswar Patra, you have taken 20 minutes. On the other day you took ten minutes and today another ten minutes. Normally everyone will have only ten minutes.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: I will just conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As a doctor you have given good suggestions.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: It should be discussed here. I am only giving some points. The population growth is a real problem.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The others will be denied an opportunity. As a doctor, you have taken 20 minutes.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: I have fully prepared for today's speech, as it is a very serious problem. I will just mention what measures should be for population control and planning.

First of all birth rate should be con-

trolled. Then we should stabilise the present level of population growth. We should do that by taking some legal steps and by motivation to restrict the number of children. That is, we should decide how many children should be there in one family.

Then, integration of population planning with economic planning should be there. Also, increase in per capita income also is necessary. There has been a survey in Maharashtra and that survey report stated that where there was no electricity population increase was there.

There is no civilisation. There is no road. If road communication is not there, there will be increase in population. The other measures that should be taken by the Government are: creation of employment opportunities; expansion of industrial sector; equitable distribution of income; removal of poverty; encouragement of education; raising of marriageable age to a maximum; proper promotion of public distribution system.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You have revealed very important points. You made a very nice speech.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: I would like to add only one sentence.

The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, said that to achieve freedom was not an end in itself but the means to enable the people to better their condition is the real end. To better the condition of the general citizen of the country, one vital measure that should be taken by the Government, by our hon. Prime Minister, who is very much interested in the development of the country, is controlling the population.

(Translation) . . .

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the population explosion is the greatest problem not only of our country but also of all the poor and developing countries. The population of our country is more than 87 crores today. It is a matter of great concern that we have only 2.4 percent agricultural land of the world whereas we share 16 percent of the world population. Now-a-days a peculiar discussion among the intellectuals is going on that growth rate has nothing to do with the rate of population growth. I would like to point out to these intellectuals that in many of the thickly populated countries the population growth rate does not have direct impact on their growth rate. Usually the example of Japan is quoted in this regard. It is one of the thickly populated countries in the world. But it should be remembered that the dense population does not pose any threat to the industrialised countries. Ours is an agro based country and it is yet to be industrialised. Being an agricultural country, there is very little scope for accommodating jumbo population. It is also said that we have plenty of agricultural land which is not used. Can this problem be sorted out by turning a deaf ear to this problem? Such arguments of intellectual would not serve any purpose and we will have to pay our attention to the genuine problem. We would gradually advance towards more complicated problems, if the population growth continues in this manner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our party had thought over this problem properly and formulated a concrete population policy to which I want to refer. Our party would strive to evolve national consensus for adopting a national population policy.

Secondly, people would be provided information and facilities regarding family

planning. In order to adopt the family planning as our own life style and create awareness among people, we would consult and seek help from all the vountary, social and cultral organisations.

Thirdly, the Family Planning Programme should not be considered as unitary one and other community welfare programmes should be integrated with this programmes. Fourthly, emphasis should be laid on providing adequate incentives for achieving the long term demographic targets and on voluntarily adopting the norms of two children. Certain conventions in our country go against the family planning. Even today the educated couple of our country yearn for son and having no son is considered as a curse upon such families. Even the educated ladies of our country feel ashamed of discussing the family planning. Unless this mentality is changed merely passing the law will not serve any purpose. Rs. 60 million has been allocated for family planning during the Eighth Five Year Plan. This amount is ten times more than that of the First Five Year Plan. I recall the output of the funds. With the passage of time and implementation of such plans, the situation has deteriorated all the more. During the First Five Year Plan the target was fixed to reduce the population growth rate to 21 per 1000 at the end of the plan. But the Government failed in reducing this rate. We went on deferring this programme from each Five Year Plan to the other. Now it seems that we would not be able to achieve this target even by 2000. The present growth rate of population indicates that we would be able to achieve this target after ten years of 2000 and our population will become 1.5 billion in 2035. In other words, we would out-number China also and at that time our country would become the most densely populated country in the world. We would be content that we are ahead in at least one field. The reason

is that we are implementing the Family Planning Programme through contraceptive measures alone. We are supposed to implement this programme in such a way so as to lead the couple to responsible motherhood and fatherhood. But we, instead, discuss the contraception only and present data of the couples brought under the purview of the use of contraceptive measures. The couple protection rate does not have any close relation with the growth rate of population. Though, this rate is very much high in Punjab and Haryana, yet it has not any conspicuous impact on the growth rate of population there. Sometimes the people talk in a very strange way. They say that they have their ten children and now they do not want child any more so they have adopted family planning. That is why we have not been able to acquaint the people with this issue so far. Ten years back the slogan was-

Development is the best contraceptive. But now it seems that this slogan needs to be reversed as 'contraceptive is the best development'.

In order to implement a family planning programme broad consensus should be evolved and only then the population policy should be formulated and implemented seriously. The idea of giving relaxation to any community does not make any sense. We are living in a democratic country. Everytime we give examples of China and Indonesia when we are living in a democratic country then why do we talk of adopting the system of these countries. When we talk of increase in population, a delegation is sent to China and Indonesia. How can we make their policies a part of our life? Why do we not cite examples of Kerala and Tamilnadu? When we talk about Kerala, people say that the standard of education is very high there; it will be difficult to have that standard in the whole of India. That is why the example of

Kerala can be restricted to Kerala only. But the same is not the case with Tamilnadu. Tamilnadu can achieve a great success in the field of family planning programmes. Why do we not study the situation there?

The best way of reducing the Birth-rate is to reduce the mortality rate of children unless the child mortality rate is reduced, the population will go on increasing because the mother is not sure whether her children will survive. Wherever we have made efforts to reduce the death rate, the Birth-rate has also declined. We set up family planning camps in villages but their attitude is very clinical. Such programmes are held to pay attention not only to family planning but to family welfare also. Attention should be given to the health of mother and child. I would like to go a step further and suggest that if we help an issueless mother to have a child with the help of some medical treatment then we would be able to win the confidence of all the mothers of that village along with that mother. Our approach should be human. Unless our attitude remains indifferent and approach clinical we will not be able to get popularity in villages and people will be suspicious of us.

Education plays a vital role in family planning. An educated woman wants to keep her family small. Women should take to more employment because a working woman wants lesser number of children. Poor people look upon their children as their property. They are of the opinion that one more son would mean more money for the family. When their standard of living improves then they think of family planning. There is saying in our villages that a person who does not have a single paise is not interested in earning money but when he is given 99 paise then he wants to make it 100 paise. The improvement in the standard of

[Prof. Rita Verma]

living will further popularise family planning programme.

I would like to say that we sometimes maintain that one should go in for family planning even after birth of two daughters. It may be true for us but a farmer would definitely like to have a son who will look after him in his old age and work in the fields because daughter gets married and leave for their in-laws' house. It would be very unrealistic of us to expect that they will be content with the birth of two daughters. If we stress on that then more and more people will resort to amniocentesis tests. They will resort to female foeticide because they are in great need of male issues. That is why if we want to popularise formula of having w daughters then we will have to improve our social security system. The poor farmer should feel secure in the knowledge that the Government would assist him in his old-age and he would not be neglected.

There is one more thing. Generally the target of all the family planning programmes is aimed at female sex only. Are women alone responsible for this? Generally, women are held responsible by women only for the increase in the population. Because we do not have many experiments in the field of family planning. The developed countries do not carry out such experiments because it is no more their problem. Since it is our problem we will have to conduct experiments and evolve new techniques. But evolving new techniques does not mean that such experiments should be conducted on women of which they are not aware. You are covering uneducated women through non-plan programmes. Neither a follow-up is done nor anybody is aware as to where do they go after a few years. It is also not known what great health hazards they are facing.

They are also not aware that it should be removed after sometime. How can the conducting of such experiments on them be considered justified? Is tampering with their hormones is justified? The Government is going to pass a new legislation to this effect that a working woman will not be entitled to maternity leave for the birth of her third child. Is only the mother responsible for it? Is the father not equally responsible for it? Then why no such provision is made for such fathers also who are in Government service and who go for a third child? Why only the mother is punished?

I would like to say one more thing, that many people are migrating to our country from Bangladesh. As per the data 7 to 12 million people have entered India for Bangladesh. It is not due to any kind of torture being perpetrated on them there. They are coming to India only to earn money and raise their standard of living. But in the case of genuine refugees who are being persecuted it may be justified to some extent but if those fortune hunters who are merely interested in earning money and raising their standards of living, come to India in large numbers then all the family planning programmes adopted by people like us lose effect to a dismal naught. Because they are grown-ups and they bear children at a greater speed. So if our country becomes an orphanage like that then all our family planning programmes will be rendered fruitless. That is why, I would suggest that this problem should be solved and they should also be made to adopt family planning programmes.

I would conclude by saying this. I would suggest that the minimum age for getting married should be raised at least 21 years for a girl and 25 years for a boy. But at the same time I would like to say that merely enacting a law will not solve the problem

unless it is backed by political will also to implement it. If there is matter of political convenience or inconvenience we do not think of morality or the welfare of our country. Recently when the elections were held in Himachal Pradesh the Congress Party raised a furore over the fact that no facilities are provided in Government hospitals at the time of the birth of the third child. The parents had to pay a fine at the time of the birth of their third child.

The Congress Party raised this point with great hullabaloo. If such a matter is raised for political convenience or inconvenience then we would never achieve success in it. The family planning is the greatest need of the hour of our country and we achieve success only if all the political parties should formulate a policy by leaving out all their prejudices. A lot of time has been wasted and we should not waste more time. We can not afford to waste any more time.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for calling me to give my views while participating in the debate on this very important subject like family planning or population growth. Indeed this is the problem or the most serious problem that is facing the country not now but for the last two decades or so.

As you know, ever since independence, we have achieved a lot in the field of development, economic development, in the industrial sector, agricultural sector, in all sectors. But this phenomenal population growth is, in fact, diluting or eating into the benefits that should flow out of such development. In the agricultural field, we have increased our production three times more.

In the industrial field, the country which was not capable of producing a pin, and a blade is now reckoned one among the 15 most industrially advanced countries of the world. But in fact, the population growth is our enemy number one. In 1947, it was about 342 millions. In 1991 census, it has gone up to 846.3 millions, i.e. about 85 crores. It is more than double. Whereas the world population was 225 crores in 1950 which has now exceeded 535 crores. Even the world growth rate is lower than our growth rate. Our growth rate in terms of population is higher. India has 16% of the world's population. In regard to land size, it is 2.4% of the total land of the world.

Look at the precarious situation. Of course, in 1990-91 census, it has recorded a slight decline percentage-wise, but in terms of total population, it is far going up. It is alarming and explosive. It is a staggering increase that we have found from 1981 to 1991. What is the remedy? We have to vigorously, concertedely, contain this growth rate. We have to make it a total success.

The hon. Member who spoke earlier referred to some restrictions here and there and some political motives. What happened during Emergency? Indiraji's Government had to go on this Programme. During Emergency, there were many political games. But because of some compulsion, there were some demolition of houses and slums etc. Now in those areas beautiful building have come up. They are now staying there happily. Some political parties took advantage of the discontent arising out of it. It has got to be a national programme, a national approach, a national consensus and a national will. There can be no politics and no religion. Reference has been made earlier by some learned Member who said that even in Islamic countries, they have family planning. Regardless of caste, reli-

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

gion or community, the higher class people, the educated couples, have accepted the small family norm.

There has to be a climate built up where all together, religious, political, social leaders and trade unionists and even teachers have to propagate family planning. Teachers should provide in the curriculum the benefits of family planning and the dangers that are hurled upon us if we do not adopt family planning.

Some communities are opposed to family planning on religious grounds. Why should there be a feeling like that? There should be a religious conference, a world conference organised in India on Family Planning. In Islamic countries, the religious leaders are propagating family planning. There cannot be a different view here. It is only a misunderstanding on our part.

We are the second largest country and largest democracy in the world. At the same time, we are the largest illiterate country. It does not mean that we have not much in this area. We have done. Today also in India 30 percent people of our population remain below poverty line. That means, in spite of all these developments taking place in the country, in the days to come there will be more number of poor people, people below the poverty line. 34 crores population was there at the time of partition and now it is 85 crores. Two-thirds of this population is illiterate. Have we not done anything during these years? But because of this addition of the new population, this is our figure relating to the illiterates, of people below the poverty-line. Thus, we are in a very ridiculous situation as far as the international scenario is concerned.

I would now like to refer to what Dr. Karan Singh, who was our Health Minister in 1970, said. As Health the Minister of India, while attending an international conference he said, "Development is the best contraceptive". It is very correct and meaningful also. But recently in an interview he said: "Contraception is the best development". So, both ways, these are significant things. Unless we make development, it will not be possible. I would like to put forth five points very pointedly, we should build up a general atmosphere. There should be a national movement. I would say very sincerely that no party should try to take political advantage out of it. In a democracy of our nature, in a country of this size where the situation is complex, a bit of compulsion is needed, I agree that it has got to be voluntary. At the same time, it cannot be free for all. In this country, even the employees do not go to office in time unless there is a bit of compulsion, unless you show them the red eye. Therefore, a bit of compulsion is needed. There has got to be a consensus. All political parties have to agree to it, the population growth being such a monster.

Secondly, as I was saying, about the contraceptive method etc. There should be a lot of research. It has got to be still easier. We cannot just go the Western way. In our country, the Ayurvedic system and other systems are there. If the method is much easier, then it will be more acceptable to the people. Of course, the aspect of female literacy is there. Kerala is a beautiful example where there is cent per cent literacy. Naturally, the female literacy is also there. There, the population growth is the least as far as the whole of the country is concerned. When the literacy rate goes up, the population growth comes down. Of course, there is the equal status for the ladies. I would like to highlight one very impor-

tant point. This should engage the attention of all the thinkers of our country including the politicians, statemen, political thinkers, social workers and religious leaders. The question is: Why are people going for more number of children? There is one thing, Whatever we say in the Constitution that men and women are equal, actually it is not so in our society. Even after four to five decades, why does one go for a son, try to have a sone again and again? Generally people say that they will be depending on their sons in their old age. The general feeling is that the girls are meant for other families. There is the rite called mukhagani. One has to perform the last rites etc. It is time for us to address ourselves as to why we should not make a revolutionary change that even ladies will be allowed to go to the burning ghat to give mukhagani, to perform the last rites. What is the wrong involved in it? In many communities, it is not allowed. They do not go. They do not attend the funeral procession. I would emphasise that they should be allowed to perform it. When we give them equal status, equal treatment, it should not remain confined to our Statute Book, our Constitution. In real practice also, it should happen gradually. Then, the old-age pension scheme should be there so that the parents can rest assured that at least the Government is there to look after them at their old age in the absence of a son.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (ALLAHABAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I express my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important issue. Today we are discussing the burning question of population explosion. This problem is not new. The Government has taken measures to curb population explosion from time to time and on this pretext many atrocities have been committed on women but in spite

of this we have not got the required success because merely the pronouncement of any programme does not guarantee its success. For achieving success a significant change has to be brought about in the social outlook of the people. In order to bring about change in the social values, cultural outlook and social bigotaries, first of all education should be spread there. Primary education should reach every house and public awakening should be brought about. Then alone we can achieve some success in this programme.

The growth rate at which population is increasing will affect not only a family but also undo all the important schemes of the country. Elaborate discussion should be held on population growth which has reached a break point. The reasons responsible for the failure of previous scheme should be reviewed and a national debate should be held thereon. The leaders of all the religious communities should be invited and they should discuss and formulate a programme which can become a people's programme and the common masses could get benefit. About Rs.5000 crore has been spent on family planning programmes during the last forty years. There was great uproar over this issue. The failure of this programme indicates that the most of the schemes have been hushed up in the files of the Government. Our population in 1991 was 84 crores and 60 lakh whereas it was actually not less than 87 crore. The population of our country is increasing every year to the population of Australia. If this population explosion is not checked, the population of our country will be 194 crore by the year 2027 AD and at that time we would not have adequate resources even to meet the basic requirements of the increased population. Consequently, we will exploit nature indiscriminately and it will adversely affect the environment of the country.

[Smt. Saroj Dubey]

Now the situation has become too critical and the population growth has gained an explosive momentum. In such a situation, efforts are being made in a haste to resolve this problem and the draft for implementing family planning programme has been prepared at the behest of the World Bank through which the Government wants to control the growth of population. The birth rate has been fixed at 2.1 in the said draft. If we want to reduce the birth rate, we will have to bring about an overall change in the existing programme for family welfare. According to the contents of the draft, if somebody does not adopt family planning voluntarily, he will be forced by laws to do so. My submission is that the Government should at least go through the pages of history which will make it clear that success cannot be achieved by thrusting any programme on people through law.

Public awakening will have to be generated among people for this purpose and the programme will have to be streamlined. The issue of population growth is directly related with literacy, unemployment, poverty, social outlook, mal-nutrition and health of the people. It may be witnessed that changes in population growth rate are checked on the basis of education. If we go through the figures of last ten years, we would find that the rate of population growth is 13.98 per cent in Kerala, 14.94 per cent in Tamil Nadu, 15.96 per cent in Goa which is much lower than the national average. On the other hand, the rate of population growth in four big States of our country - Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is very high because the literacy is low there. The literacy is 23 per cent in Bihar, 28 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and 21 per cent in Rajasthan. Women literacy is 26 per cent in

Uttar Pradesh, whereas it is 87 per cent in Kerala. The reason behind the lower rate of population growth in Kerala and its higher rate in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is the vast difference in literacy rate. The higher the literacy rate, the lower is the population growth rate and the lower the literacy rate the higher is the population growth rate. Due to low literacy among women, girls are married at an early age. Due to ignorance and lack of education among women there is a desire to have a son and to fulfil this wish they go on giving birth to child after child continuously. Moreover having the feeling of social insecurity and seeking the help in old age, uneducated women want to give birth to more and more children. Since the right of last rites goes with son which is an age old tradition in this country, people lured to produce more and more children.

The women are possessed these desire because they are illiterate. Therefore, parents want to get rid of their responsibility by marrying their uneducated girls at the early age of 20. They consider son as their shield and a helping hand in old age and therefore go on producing children. Most of the families in our country hold that God who has given mouth to people will provide food also and with the increase in working hands, their income will also increase. So, they produce more and more children. Unless the existing evils like child labour, poverty etc are eradicated, the growth of population will continue to be encouraged. A country is considered developed only when its citizens are provided facilities like primary education and health facilities. In the developed countries like Cuba, health facilities have been made available and therefore, America is jealous of Cuba. On the other hand, the condition of health facilities country is deficient in health facilities and this is the reason for population explosion.

Till September, 1992, our country had 2007 community Health Centres, 20850 Primary Health Centres and 130,780 Sub-health Centres. The Government has proposed not to set up new Health Centres and new Primary Health Centres during the Eighth Five Year Plan. It is a gross injustice against the rural people because 1,30,780 Health Centres are inadequate to provide health facilities to 87 crore people of the country. The Government could not provide health facilities to the rural people through the health centres set up earlier also. Even today in most of our villages new razors are not available to cut the umbilical cord of newly born babies. The umbilical cord of newly born babies in rural areas is cut with a sickle or rusted knife as a result of which the infants suffer from various diseases like tetanus etc. The mothers do not get nutritious food after delivery and hence their health deteriorates.

18.00 hours

Trained nurses and medicines are not available for the delivery in rural areas. This causes a lot of complications and in most of the cases the mother and the child lose their lives. The condition of Primary Health Centres in rural areas of the country is deplorable. Doctors are reluctant to live in village and they prefer to live in towns. In such a situation, the villagers keep their cattle in those vacant buildings which were built for the purpose of residences of Doctor.

For want of primary Health Centres, the Government has started importing contraceptives from different parts of the world so that the fertility of women may be curbed. On the 30th September, 1992 the Government reached a comprehensive project in Uttar Pradesh with the American aid of \$325 million. I vehemently oppose it because under this project the hormones based most-

ly contraceptives like Nor-Plan 1, Nor-Plan 2 and Depo-provera are likely to be used. These contraceptives are hazardous from health point of view and the World Health Organisation has also raised objection to its utility. The Indian Medical Council has also not given any decision in this regard. It causes diseases like cancer, blood pressure and hormone imbalance as side effects. Under the Nor-Plan 1 and Nor-Plan 2, contraceptive measures a capsule coated with silk like rubber is planted on the arms of a woman. It will prevent conception for at least 5 years. The use of this contraceptive in the places where there are no primary health facilities will create problems because constant care is taken after this capsule is planted. America and many developed countries have rejected this device, then why are we accepting it?

I demand that the women of Uttar Pradesh should not be subjected to laboratory tests undertaken by America and Finland and this agreement should be annulled with immediate effect. Unless the investigation is completed this intention of implementing this project should be given up.

Why are the women only being held responsible for enforcing family planning? Is it not the common responsibility of both the partners? Majority of sterilisation operations are fake these days. Though I made complaint to this effect in the Consultative Committee of Health yet no reply has come forth, Birth of child after sterilisation is a glaring example of the failure of several family planning schemes. And failure to furnish reply after all this is a bigger crime. If even then the Government thinks that the population could be controlled it is really astonishing. Please do not make women target of oppression. Only those birth control means should be introduced which have been fully tested. For this literacy is very important.

[Smt. Saroj Dubey]

Now the Government has proposed to make a provision that those having more than two children will not be issued ration card under PDS. This is gross injustice. Women due to ignorance and illiteracy are unaware that keeping family size small is their responsibility otherwise ration cards will be cancelled. In Banaswara women were denied ration. This sort of injustice should not happen.

There is also a proposal that those having more than two children will not be allowed to contest the elections. With great efforts under panchayatiraj laws women were given the opportunity to exclusively contest for 30 per cent seats. However, if these provisions are enacted then fate of women will be miserable.

Under Maternity Benefits Act provision has been made that in case of third child maternity leave will not be granted and salary will be deducted and service can also be terminated. Why these stringent provision are for women only? Why action is not being taken against politicians and senior officers having 8-9 children? Why damocles sword is being put on the head of women only who want the march forward? The Government is not serious on the issue of health of women. The Government should spread literacy and give equal opportunities to women so that they adopt two child norm. The Government should propogate two child norms through quality literature, seminars and street plays. It should be made a people's movement. In these endeavours both men and women should be depicted as equal responsible partners. This way in Kerala women have planned their family sizes without giving undue importance to the

maxim that children provide security in old age. Marriage age for girls should be raised to 21 and for boys 25. Sharda Act, which prohibits child marriages should be strictly enforced. In rural areas girls below 10 years of age are married. In Rajasthan young girls are married off in mass marriages. There are no restrictions in force in private sector. Women should be given equal rights and made literate. This programme could be easily spread by voluntary organisations. All harmful anti-pregnancy bills should be rejected. Instead of succumbing to World Bank pressure draft proposal for the benefit of women should be prepared and adopted. Population explosion which is detrimental to development of the country should be checked. If anything is forcibly thrust upon the people success will not be achieved. Agitations could take place as were witnessed during Emergency. Keeping in mind the lessons of the past, programme should be made simple and people oriented. Success could be achieved through public awareness and by convincing rural women. It is but natural to be worried as population explosion is detrimental to development. While formulating the policy health of mother and child should be given due regard. Only then we can achieve success. Instead of thrusting any programme it should be implemented after discussions. For the last 45 years we have been taking about controlling population. Lot of hue and cry is raised time and again and then there is silence everywhere. This programme should be universally extended to politicians and farmers. No distinction should be made between men and women. Political platforms should be used for this purpose and programme should be extended to both private and public sectors on a war footing for achieving success.

[English]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (PUNE) : Sir, we

are discussing the situation arising out of increasing population in the country and measures taken by the Government to check the same. The population problem has arisen because of three points. The first one is the disastrous failure of the family planning programme after propagating it for nearly 45 years. The second point is the infiltration in this country of other nationals from the borders which are not properly sealed by the Government. The third point is that lakhs of refugees are continuously coming from different countries where the Indian Government could exercise its will to request that Government to stop all these refugees coming to India.

About the first point, the Government of India has spent thousands of crores of rupees on eight Five Year Plans for getting prosperity and better living conditions. But the result we see is that the population that has come in the grip of poverty is more than what was in the days when we got the independence. Not only that, the situation has gone to such an alarming stage that India stands at the bottom of the list of 20 poorest countries in the world.

The second thing is that we have one-third of world's poor population not only in India, but one-third of world's poor population. We have half of the world's illiterates. Over 40 crore people are condemned to sub-standard living conditions. Over 20,000 people die every day from chronic starvation. Over 10 crore people are jobless or without a source of income. This is the condition.

When we have spent thousands of crores of rupees for achieving good living conditions and prosperity, the result is that

we are at the bottom of the 20 poorest countries in the world and 10 crore people are without jobs or without any source of income. This is all due to high birth-rate and over population which the root cause of poverty, illiteracy, starvation and deforestation.

This is not a problem faced by India only. There are so many countries. They are having different religions, different cults and all sorts of things. But they have made their determination. Take the case of Indonesia. It is predominantly a Muslim country. It is having 200 different languages and numerous cults there. They started this programme of family planning 20 years ago. They are more successful in that.

What is the reason, Sir? They have popularised this family planning programme in which all people including the President and the Ministers, the TV and the radio, the Imams, the Mullas, the Maulvis and different **dharam** gurus of different religions come together. That is exactly which my friend has pointed out. We have to call them together we have to first narrate them the disasters caused by population explosion and take their help. I would like to quote here about the population control in Indonesia and India.

"At the recent conference held in New Delhi on population control in November 1991 attended by experts from various Asian countries, delegate after delegate from the success countries have stressed that the political will and determination were the most important factors behind their success in curbing birth-rate. In Indonesia, for instance, FP is

[Sh. Anna Joshi]

talked about constantly and everywhere at the most unlikely occasions like inauguration of an off-shore oiling at which the Indonesian President asked a worker how many children he had. "Two, Sir", came the reply. "I applaud you" responded the President and advised other workers to follow his example for better quality in living."

This interchange was shown in TV and broadcast in radio and family planning was talked of in every function and meeting. The programme has been made mandatory by Indonesian Constitution. A package of incentives and more importantly, disincentives is being firmly implemented. As a result, Indonesia, a predominantly Muslim country with nearly 200 languages and numerous ethnic groups, has reduced its population growth rate from 3.34 per cent to 1.7 per cent in 20 years. So, if the national will is there and if the Government and the people decide together, then it is not an impossible task. This is an example and this is the achievement made by Indonesia, a Muslim country within 20 years.. In that case, why are we not able to achieve even half of it within 45 years. He is a remark made by the Vice-President, Mrs. Sharoon Cam, of the Population Crisis Committee. She has remarked that due to the criminal negligence of bureaucracy, the family planning programme in India has been totally defeated. There is no other country which is going to defeat us in this field. It is all because of our people, our machinery, our Government and our political parties who form the reasons for this defeat and failure for the last 45 year. She has rightly said that if you want to check rise in population, you should increase your expenses. Recently, we paid homage to Shri J.R.D. Tata. He was the first man who said that we should spend

Rs.5000 after family planning operation because he knew that the expenses which the nation has to incur after the birth of a child is much more than that Rs.5000. But we have not cared for it. Therefore, if the nation decides, we can do it but our family planning programme is Hnon-starter in India.

"Despite 40 years of family planning in India, there is not even an iota of success compared to Indonesia's success. In India, population is rising at an alarming rate of 1.75 crores annually."

Apart from the infiltrators whose number is in crores, there are also refugees who are again found in crores and crores. Therefore, this is entirely because of the failure of the Government to take strong measures. All these are adding to the increase of our population. We should take these aspects very seriously. If the family planning programme were to be successful, the first and foremost thing is that everybody should accept a uniform civil code. When we live in a secular country, why one should be allowed to enjoy some religious privileges at the cost of the security and prosperity of the nation? We can see that in all parts of the world, all the other religions have accepted this fact. So, I strongly urge that a common civil code is a must for the country.

There are some restrictions on the number of children, marriageable age, etc. But these are not at all strictly implemented. Two of our lady Members have stated that implementation of these rules add to the harassment of women. But it is not like that. If they feel so, these rules may first be implemented on men, viz. on the father of the children. If a man has more than two children, he may be denied facilities such as ration card, promotion, etc. They may not be eligible to contest in elections whether it

be Zilla Parishad, Gram Panchayat or Parliamentary elections. We may deny them a berth in the Cabinet as well. One must practise what one preaches. If a Minister is having eight to ten children, how can he be a role-model to the common citizens of this country?

MR. CHAIRMAN : But they might have got the children before they became the Ministers.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : My only contention is this. What example are they going to present to our people?

I would reiterate the problem of infiltrators again. We have seen that almost all the political parties have encouraged the infiltrators. They have given them false citizenship. I just do not understand why they resort to such things. It is seen that the Bangladeshi infiltrators have come up to Madras, Kashmir and Bombay. There are lakhs and lakhs of them. Who is bringing them or who is encouraging them? What are our military, police and border security forces doing? This is a very serious problem.

ONE HON. MEMBER : They support you also.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : They may be our supporters but we are not supporting them. (*interruptions*).

I mentioned these aspects only to highlight that these are all adding to our population problems. Is there any other country in the world where crores of people from the neighbouring countries infiltrate and sabotaged even the election programmes? That is why I strongly feel that the borders of our country should be sealed.

Now, same is the case with the refugees.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (DIAMOND HARBOUR) : These are two entirely different issues. Why are you bringing all these issues into this debate?

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : I do agree that the problem of refugees is a different kind of problem. The Government has to take appropriate steps to see that in the country where they are living, their rights are protected and they are respected. Our Government should try to do their best in order to tackle these problems. We have to take it as a national challenge and the Government and all the political parties and all the leaders of the different religious groups should come together and evolve the best way possible to solve the problem of population rise.

Is they are brought together, then a common programme for family planning, sealing of borders and also for creating good atmosphere in different countries for Indians could be undertaken. If it is done, then this problem can be tackled. That is my suggestion.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (DIAMOND HARBOUR) : Sir, I think every speaker who started today and also on previous occasions when this debate was taking place had said that this a very serious problem. In fact, they said that this is the most important problem of the country today. But, unfortunately, after many years -I have been in Parliament for almost eleven years now. I think this is for the first time that this topic is being discussed in Parliament. So, the seriousness which the Parliament attaches to this problem is not that much. If the problem is considered that serious, then this problem should have

[Sh. Amal Datta]

been discussed in every Session and the Government should have been asked to account for its achievements during the intervening period.

What we are saying today and what the other speakers have said already are all known to everybody for a long time. It is known for the last forty years or even more. In fact, in the First Five Year Plan, in 1952, it was stated that the population problem is one of the biggest problems of the country. Subsequently, every Plan, had recognised this problem. In the Sixth Five Year Plan, Government had said that one of the main objectives of the Plan is to control the growth of population and yet the Government has not been able to control the growth of population. What is the reason? The Government should be asked to give that reason to this House as to whether it is a policy failure or whether it is an approach failure or whether it is an implementation failure. If so, what kind of monitoring do they do? Why did it fail? Why have they not been able to achieve reduction in population growth? This topic may again come up for discussion after fifteen years or so, I do not know. But, in the last eleven years, no debate had taken place as far as population problem is concerned. There should have been a Paper from the Government explaining its position about its own weaknesses. I do not know whether Mr. Shankaranand, who has been the Health Minister for not very long time knows about the seriousness of this problem. But, as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, I had given a Report and I had pointed out the weakness of implementation, the weakness of the design for implementing it and various other aspects, including that the Government itself had said as its objectives.

Now, the Members here who have been speaking said that coercive methods will not do in a democratic country like India. Therefore, other methods like awareness, education of women, health of mother, health of the child, reduction of infant mortality and so on are necessary. They have been recognised to be so forty years ago by the Government itself.

But the Government either has not been able to take proper steps that are necessary or the Government having taken steps has failed. Now, some of these failures have been pointed out in that Report, which have mentioned, which I have mentioned. I do not know whether Mr. B. Shankaranand will have time to study that Report because I found out from the present Chairman of the PAC now that there is no Action Taken Report on that, which may mean that the Government has not given Action Taken Note and the PAC did not sit on it to consider whether the action taken by the Government is necessary or not. So, this is the way the Government tackles the problem. This actually shows why this has become now - from an ordinary problem which it was in 1952 when it was first recognised - an intractable problem for India; and our thinking in the process has become stereotype. We have come to a norm of two children in 1960. We are still pursuing that norm. Now, in the 60s, there was a country, China, which was telling us that there was no necessity of any population control, any birth control; that was what China was saying in 50s and 60s. But they instituted their own population control, birth control programme in 1970s. In spite of the fact that they achieved considerable success, they have recently come to another idea, that is, one child norm, because they feel that not only the growth of population must be arrested, but it has to be reduced. We have not got on to that thinking yet.

although I understand the population density in India per sq. km. is twice that of China. In China, the population density is 110 per sq. km., I am giving the previous figure of 1983; that is a figure available to me. In India, it was, by 1981 census, 216-110 and 216. Though, the Chinese population in absolute term is certainly more than India's today. But they have got a lesser density of population. Their growth rate has gone down. It was 1.2 in the year 1980 as against 2.28 for India and 1.8 of the world. So, the Chinese population growth in the 80s had gone to a figure of below the world average and yet after that they have gone over to a norm of one child family. Has the Minister thought about this? Mr. B. Shankaranand, Sir, will you please listen to the debate? This is the importance that you give to what people, your party people are saying, number one problem of India. You will not listen; you will leave it to the juniors; that is exactly what was the findings of the PAC that this problem has been delegated to the junior staff of the Ministry; that is what you have been doing. The population growth in India remains unabated; it goes on and the crude birth rate in most of the States of India has not fallen barring one or two and that also not to the desired level. The crude birth rate should have achieved the figure of 21 by now; and it is around 30. 33. The Government has a stereotype policy and a stereotyped approach for the whole of India. This has been pointed out to the Government that this should change because India is a very vast country, it is a country full of diversity. Religious, cultural and ethnic lot of diversities are there. Therefore, the approach has to be tailored to the needs of the population of the region where you are working.

Flexibility is the prime necessity. Flexibility in designing the programme, flexibility in the finances required to be spent in

particular areas. They have done nothing so far as I know pursuant to that recommendation. If they even analyse their own statistics, they will understand what is the basic problem of the terminal approach they have adopted so far.

They have given incentives to people, doctors, to others, to motivators to bring men and women to them for tubectomy and vasectomy.

Tubectomy has become very easy because of very quick operation, because of some new discovery like Laparoscopy. I do not know what it means but I understand that making a very-very small hole and through that the operation can be one in a matter of few minutes. There is not much danger involved. Very good. But who are the people on whom they are performing these operations? Their own statistics show that majority of the people on whom they are performing these operations are the women of the age group of 30 to 44 years, which is a menopause age. The target group of women are of 15 to 45 years. This is a 30 years span, therefore, the quantity of women you deal with is very large.

If they can triple the money they are spending then it is very good; if they cannot, then with that money also they can focus their attention to women of a particular age group who are most fecund. That is the age group of 19 to 29 years. This has been pointed out to them that this is the age group which must be target. They have not done anything to change the target. The target still remains from 15 to 45 years age group. In fact, the women who got operated have already borne 3-4-5 children. That is why the programme comes to a naught. They show that so many couples have been protected but the protected couples came to them because they did not want any more

[Sh. Amal Datta]

children. They have already had enough. Where is the two-children norm here?

They do not even analyse their own statistics. They do not have people to do that. They do not even see their reports that are coming, they do not compile the reports which come from the districts. The total bureaucratic stereo-typed approach is a failure, it has not motivated people.

I have called at that time all the departments concerned. They also know that education must be there, rural development must be there. All these departments must have an integrated approach to family planning. Media must be there. What has the media been doing in 1987 when these people were examined? The media people were called to appear before the PAC and they said they had done nothing. Then the Health Department was asked why they were not doing anything. They said the Doordarshan wants money at the commercial rates and that they did not have funds to pay them at those rates. It was very high.

We asked the Doordarshan people not to charge anything from them and after that they started giving small skits of two minutes and nothing more than that. They have not generated the awareness which they could have generated amongst the people of the gangers of population, of the benefits of having a planned spacing of children and not to have more than two children. They have not spread this message.

They have not spread it through the electronic media which is within their control they have not spread it through the other media and they have done nothing to start education for people in general.

Indeed even for school children the Planning Commission had stated in the Fifth Five Year Plan that they should start an educational programme on sex for educating population. Nothing has been done. So, this Government has failed in its policy towards population or in appreciating the danger of increase in population. What has to be done? Women have to be educated, there must be employment opportunities for women, women's health must be improved, child mortality must be reduced; everything is known. But nothing has been done to coordinate these efforts and of the departments of the government. Even in the Health and Family Planning Departments they do not coordinate their activities. That is why they are a total failure. They are all going in different directions.

So, whatever money is spent with this kind of an attitude, with this kind of uncoordinated approach will be a waste. We can recommend that the Government should spend more money. But they have to change the way they are implementing the programme. The programme design has to be very flexible. People have been saying that because of the Hindu culture by which they mean that the son must do mukhagni and all that business; because of that they want a son. That may be put forward as the reason now. But how is it that in Kerala even in the Hindu families they forego their son? How is it that in Tamil Nadu they can do it? In four States of India, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan the birth rate is still hovering around 40. These are the four States and they are called by demographers by their initials as BIMARU States, that is, sick States. In these States there are more Hindus than in the other States. Family Planning has been effective in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab

as also in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. So, why is it not effective in these four States? We have not been able to reach the people. These are big States. So, the problems are probably more. In any case, the design of the programme has to be flexible. The Government should reach the people for the programme to be really effective. That has not been done.

I would like the hon. Minister, if he cares, to read up the recommendations of the PAC Report of 1987-88 and to tell us in his reply - I do not know when that will be - what they have done pursuant to that. It is his duty to do so. Also, he may clarify whether they have at all been thinking in terms of the one child norm, because today India's problem has become such that unless we take drastic steps - I do not say that if one child norm is there then the population reduction will take place immediately because our demographic structure is such that women of child bearing age are in very large numbers now - we cannot immediately start reduction of population at all. Their role in population control will be more and today we cannot do it in remote areas in many places.

Coming to the disincentives, there have to be disincentives. There has to be some kind of coercion. I am not saying that the Government should do it only by coercion. The Government may do all these things, education, health, everything. But they have also to have some coercion, some disincentive, without which we cannot make the people work or make them follow the norms.

The Government's bureaucracy cannot do it all by itself. It is a very large country. Population cannot be controlled by bureaucracy alone. There are Non-Governmental Organisations. If they are not already in the

field, the Government has to create them, promote them and work through them. They are one with the people. They can work with the people much better. The Government has done nothing. They have created a structure where they have appointed someone as a Gram Sevika or something.

He works for Rs. 50 or Rs. 150 or something like that. By and large, his salary has been increased. In some States like Bengal, they had become regular employees of the Health Department. There are about one and a half lakh Gram Sevaks. This is the kind of a thing which happens if you only depend on Government or Government controlled people. You must go in for people's participation and you must go to the Non-Governmental Organisations. I do not think the Health Department has done anything either in the family welfare or in preventive health. That is what they should do. Otherwise, we can never have the kind of the health structure, the demographic structure and the family birth control that you want.

Sir, the whole attitude of the Department is too much bureaucratic. It has to be changed. They should look around and see how other countries work. It cannot be centralised. The whole initiative, even today, is centralised in Delhi. It is supposed to work through the State Governments which are having a network of PHCs and all that. Even then, the initiative and the thinking and everything are centralised in Delhi and they set the pattern and they dictate the design. This attitude must change. So, I hope, the hon. Minister, Shri Shankaranand, will give a proper reply.

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh):

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the population growth today is the matter of global concern. India being the second most populous coun-

[Kumari Frida Topno]

try in world, next to China with very limited resources for its people attracts the immediate concern of this august body for an immediate but far reaching programme oriented action.

The Government of India in the past have taken up many devices to check the growth in population. But often this has not been accepted by the people specially in the rural areas. As a result of which our population control mission has not achieved its target.

The most important factor for population control is our education. Though our Constitution provided in the Directive Principles of State Policy to provide free and compulsory education to all upto the age of 14 years, we have immensely failed in this regard. Hundreds of thousands of villages do not have primary schools till today. Hundreds of schools in the of villages do not have teachers. Those which have the teachers are hardly attend the schools. Education alone will solve our population problems. The illiterate parents go for more children for their livelihood. This notion of the parents could be removed only by educating them. The best example being the State of Kerala which has the highest percentage of literacy and the lowest rate of growth in population. My appeal to the Government, therefore, is to formulate a National Policy for providing education to all with particular emphasis to rural population. The second major factor for population growth is our policy on health care. We have hardly provided primary health services to our villages. Hundreds of people in the Villages still depending on the age old traditional medicines for their survivals. Health Centres are to play a pivotal role in our population control. They are to advise

the parents if they have more than two children in the family. Our mothers are not taken care of during delivery. Our infants die unattended and as a result, infant death rate in Orissa is the highest.

To check the growth rate in population we must provide primary health centre at least to every Panchayat with a doctor.

Thirdly, we have to give more emphasis on Integrated Child Development Services and other child welfare and the protection of mother programme. Every Block of our country must be brought under ICDS programme. ICDS Zonal headquarters to be set up and their functions be brought under the direct control of the Central Government. More funds be made available and the organisation be more active to educate the rural mothers. Employment and earning of bread for the family have been a notion among uneducated parents in the villages. In order to counteract this notion, we need more training facilities and job opportunities in villages. In the recent past, big industries on the initiative of the Government as well as the private concern are coming up in the villages. Thousands are getting employment but mostly urban people are benefitted. The unemployment among rural youths is increasing as before the setting up of industries we have not prepared them. It is, therefore, required that Industrial Training Institutes in rural area should be opened so that the job opportunities to the rural youth is available. The more number of youths getting employment in the villages will change the traditional notion among the parents.

I would, therefore, request the Government to give a serious thought to this problem the nation is facing today.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

Now I think, in my own right I am one of those who are absolutely capable of speaking on this subject because I have not added even one single person in our population growth. Now, why I am saying this because I was listening to all. But, I would like to tell you that because of the fact that I have no children, as early as in 1953 when I was the MLA of a Constituency in West Bengal, it was the village women who called me and asked me, 'Didi, since you do not have any children - and I was much younger at that time - there must be a way. Can you please teach us?' I arranged the Family Planning Camp in 1953 in West Bengal. Why I am saying this because whenever we speak about family planning business, often the main emphasis is on women. Here, I absolutely differ. I wish that more of my colleagues would have been here. Really speaking, women are more anxious to have less children than the men. This is my direct experience of working among the village women for a long time. This is the first point that I wanted to make. Therefore, in any Population Policy that you make, your first target must be men and then women. Otherwise, you will not be able to do anything.

Secondly, a new theory has come from the West. One theory is coming that population growth has nothing to do with the state of economic affairs in the country. This dangerous theory is being propagated by the western world in order to achieve their own interests.

I think every hon. Member here would agree on this point that population growth has a direct bearing on the economic affairs of the country. Everyone has spoken also on that. I do not want to go on repeating the

same thing. If we have to have success in future in family planning programmes, the questions of health care, education, and employment - both of men and women - are definitely the factors in this campaign. It is true that we have achieved very little success. I know the hon. Minister will give the figures. The figures are with me, I do not want to pester anybody with the figures. But then the success achieved is very little. We have to admit it. It seems to me one of the reasons of achieving little success is - as I said - that there must be a change in the perception itself. It is true and very important that economic, cultural and social conditions for the whole society must be changed, if we really want to achieve our population control seriously.

At the same time, I also see what is happening nowadays. There is the question of early marriages. I am seeing that even in relatively more advanced places, early marriages have started taking place. Why is it so? People are afraid of dowry. Who is fighting against dowry? Nobody. Therefore, this particular type of factors, which may not be just laying before your eyes, have to be specially found out and our hands must be laid on that.

I agree that many of the points have been made by my hon. friends and that is why I am not just repeating them. While supporting them, I am trying to bring this angle that the entire family planning programme has to get this special angle if we want to succeed in today's situation.

Just now, my friend, Shri Amal Datta, spoke that laparoscopy has become very easy and so laparoscopy can be done on younger women and they should be made the target group. While I know that laparoscopy has become very easy, if you make the younger women only the target

[Smt. Geeta Mukherjee]

group and not the men, it is not correct. The men will be first to produce children. This is my experience. I find that this particular approach is really lacking in the whole of our direction of the policy. This is one point.

Secondly, I fully agree that if we have to have proper family planning the governmental organisations have to take all the necessary steps as has been pointed by many friends who said about coordination of different Departments, shedding the bureaucratic attitude and also about economic decisions etc. I would like to say that it is really a very big social problem. It is a multidimensional social problem. It is not just an economic problem. The economic problem is the most important factor. But this multidimensional social problem has to be dealt with in that multidimensional way and for that I fully believe that unless we all - men and women together, and particularly the men - do not take initiative in reducing the family, we shall not be able to do it. This is my strong observation.

I have already covered most of the things. I will be covering two more points quickly.

(19.00 hrs)

Sir, another thing is media and it is very important. Everyday in the morning, in the television, a Population Clock is shown which shows how much population is increasing per minute. That clock appears and disappears before anybody starts understanding anything. Is this the way of propagating the family planning messages/ Surely, this is not the way. Television should go a long way in motivating the people. I do not think we are giving importance to the

mass media, that is, television which is not even penetrating in the villages. Similarly, radio also goes to the villages. How much time do we allot to popularise this issue. This should be dealt with in a multi-faceted way. I fully agree that this cannot be done only by the Government. The Government has many more things to do. The Government ultimately formulates the policy, but I fully agree that this should have been through over long back as early as 1950 if the village women wanted a camp. Why are we discussing this in 1993?

Then, this incentive which is given is not reaching the proper people. If anybody is brought from the village, then an intermediary comes and takes the money. He tells that this person has been operated upon. The Minister must take note of the fact that a lot of bogus figures are given and a lot of money is not properly spent and the money is taken by the middlemen. Have you ever checked up that? Have you ever gone into this? I do not think you have gone into this aspect. But, this is what is being done in the villages. This is another very important aspect which should have been attended to properly, but we have not done so. This point has been raised by many people in many fora.

Then, for getting the assistance of the Non-Governmental Organisations, I would say the initiative is very little upto now. Whatever Organisation we are working we get involved in it. For properly involving the Non-Governmental Organisations, if you give incentives to them, probably you will have better results. This aspect should be taken into consideration. I am not saying that the Non-Governmental Organisations will act only on your incentive, but then this should be thought over.

Regarding the "one child" norm, some-

time back Shrimati Taradevi Siddhartha called a meeting of women Members of Parliament and I was one of those who proposed this "one child" norm in that meeting. Some of the women supported me but then the whole Department and the majority of the Members who were sitting there came to the conclusion that in our country, "one child" norm is not quite possible at the moment, because we have not been able to implement the "two children" norm itself properly. But, this is an advance idea for the future which we should start projecting from now onwards. I am not saying that we should take punitive measures immediately on the "one child" norm, but this idea should be projected because these things take a long time to go down below. We have to take that kind of attitude.

For example, in China, I asked the Chinese friends when I went there last year as to what do they feel about the one-child norm. They told me that in the villages they were not able to take punitive measures but in the town they had started taking punitive measures. This also has to be flexible. This is my understanding and you have to see where you will take punitive measures and where you will not take punitive measures. It will very much depend on the socio economic conditions of the area and of the people concerned.

Therefore, I would conclude by saying that this population control policy has many facets. I wish the government should very seriously consider all these facets and make the policy as quickly as possible. Time is already running short. We should have much ahead of the time. We should not lag behind any more in really taking this thing pretty seriously.

Speaker, Sir, soon after we attained independence, the newly constituted Planning Commission while formulating the first Five Year Plan recognised the importance of laying down sound population policy a provision of Rs. 6.5 million was allotted at that time for the family planning programme. From that time, India became the first country in the world to launch officially fertility control programme. Since then, every Plan has made changes on the policy, divided different strategies including clinic-based approach, community-based approach and also special attention for 90 poor performing district approach. We have adopted so many projects and strategies. The provision of funds also in the Eighth Plan was exactly 10 times as much as the First Plan. There has been no shortage of strategies in our plans. But the sad fact remains that the long-term goal of achieving birth of 21 per thousand which was proposed to be reached by 2,000 A.D. in the national health policy statement of 1983 is being progressively postponed in every five year plan to another five years. This is the position.

The 1991 census has strongly highlighted the consequences of overall failures of family planning programmes in terms of regulating the population explosion. The 1991 census figures represent 23.56% growth rate over 1981 figures. It is casual mentioned that by about 2035, the population would exceed 1.5 billion and would thereafter exceed the Chinese figure. At present, the population increase at the rate of 40 per minute and 1.20 crores per year. After every three months, India is producing one Israel and after every six months, India is producing one Switzerland and after every year, India produces one Australia. This is the position.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN
(Gobichettipalyam) : Mr. Deputy-

Our population is about 17% of the world population, being the second largest

[Sh. P.G. Narayanan]

in the world. We will have one consolation, namely that hereafter we will always first in at least one achievement, that is, population growth.

The economic development of our country depends very much on the size, nature, and the composition of its population. It is an important factor of economic growth. Like physical resources, we have got vast human resources. The progress of a country is so much dependent on the people living in it, that without a proper survey of the different aspects of population, no further plan could be drafted properly. Although we have made considerable progress during the last 40 years in the industrial and agricultural sectors, yet even the green revolution now is not going to produce comparable foodgrains to keep pace with the population growth. Today we are exporting foodgrains but our people are still under-nourished. They cannot even afford to buy food and, therefore, we have a small surplus. The pressures upon food are going to increase and the benefits of our economic development during the last 40 years have already been diluted as a result of population explosion. The fact is that the nation has not paid enough attention to it. So, the tragedy is that the whole policy has become derailed and distorted and instead of becoming the centrepiece of our economic development, things became so bad that nobody would practice family planning. Even the name of the Ministry was changed from Family Planning to Family Welfare. People become allergic to the very word family planning and all political without exception virtually ignored the population control except to pay lip-service to it in their manifestos. The basic point that needs to be made is that were in a disastrous situation as far as population is

concerned and, therefore, we have to make urgent and concerted efforts to bring down the increasing rate of population.

The first thing that is needed is a break-through in contraceptive technology. If we can put up our own satellites if we can develop missiles, why our scientists have not been able to make a break-through in contraceptive technology also? If in our country, the Indian medical companies could achieve a break-through in contraceptive technologies, it could be an extraordinary thing and to achieve this, the industrial and commercial community is into interact with the scientists on this important aspect.

The second major point is that we should concentrate much more than we have been doing on female literacy. There is a very close co-ordination between fertility and female literacy. When the latter goes up, the former goes down. When female literacy rate goes up, the fertility rate would definitely go down. This fact is so well-established now that it is known throughout the world. Here is an area in which we have got to work very hard. Women must be associated at all levels in any family planning or population control programmes.

Welfare of children, maternal and health-care are absolutely necessary for ensuring lower fertility. Whenever children are well-looked after and the mortality rate falls, the fertility rate also falls. Therefore, the Integrated Child Health Care Programme is extremely important.

The Tamil Nadu Government has recently launched the Integrated 15-Point Programme in the name of our Chief Minister to ensure cent per cent health and welfare of children. It is better for the other States also to follow this child welfare scheme

to bring down the mortality rate of the children. In fact, Tamil Nadu stands first in implementing the Family Planning Programme successfully.

Then, I want to point out one other thing. There should be some old-age insurance or pension. People say that everybody should have only two children whether it includes a boy or not. Generally, people ask one question : When the girls get married and go away, who is actually going to look after those people when they are old in age? Certainly it is a valid question. The only way to deal with it is to have some kind of an old-age pension for the people who, after 60 or 65 years cannot work, so that they are convinced that there is some sort of a safety-net available to them even if they do not have a male child.

Fourthly, apart from our prevailing laws, a mass movement is required for population control. It is not something that can be done merely by the Government or by adopting the population policies or laws in Parliament. It is no use simply talking about it in the urban areas because in any case small family norms are much more popular there. It is really the rural population which must be involved in this scheme.

It is now being discovered by experts that the Family Planning Programme is conceptually unsound and flawed. It was mainly due to the unsuccessful implementation of the minimum needs programme as also the failure to implement the compulsory primary education. In the mean time, population has gone up like anything. For this, the government or the political parties are not to be blamed. It is also the responsibility of the citizens of India. Have they asked the State or the political parties for any concerted efforts to stem the birth rate? Have they observed any bandh or organised any pro-

test march against the rising population as they are organising frequently strikes against price rise or corruption etc.? Have the newspapers or the periodicals a regular column on population control? No. Many seminars and meetings are organised by the intellectuals but hardly any of them on population. How many Deans or Vice-Chancellors of our University have taken the initiative to begin courses on India's population dynamics? This national apathy towards a serious problem is appalling.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next, I call Shri Gopinath Gajapathi to speak.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayaladuturi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, just before he speaks, I just want to draw the House's attention to the fact that there is some sort of a record that not one member of the Press is sitting in the Press Gallery. This is the importance that the media is attaching to what we regard as a crucial issue before the nation. Thank you..

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur) : Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Indeed, the world's population is growing at a monthly rate equivalent to the size of London city and is set to trigger an urban population crisis. Every year, almost 90 million people are being added to the world population of over five billion. Over 80 million of these additional people per year will be born in the less developed countries. The key question is how this population growth is going to influence the development of these countries and especially their quality of life, employment opportunities, health and educational system.

The massive increase in global

[Sh. Gopi Nath Gajapathi]

population is a recent phenomenon. But despite a pledge made at the United Nations Population Fund meeting in 1989, to contribute some nine billion dollars a year to population programmes, Governments currently spend just 4.5 billion dollars a year. The sum is equivalent to three weeks United States military spending and less than what the US spend on Halloween costumes in 1992. What is also disguised by these figures is that three-quarters of the money is raised by the developing countries themselves.

In Asia, between one quarter and three-quarters of all families now live in slum or squatter settlements. It is estimated that by the end of the century the figure will have risen to 60 per cent. Cities like Tokyo, that have expanded into the world's largest city in the space of a few decades, are now teetering on the brink of crisis. While Japan rode the wave of its economic boom, it was able to sustain the city's explosive growth. But, now infrastructure problems and the spectre of recession are threatening the city's fragile equilibrium. The city will have to shoulder the extra burden of another 4.9 billion inhabitants before 2010 A.D., putting the total population close to 30 billion.

Not turning to India, according to the final figures of the 1991 census, the population of India was 846.3 million on 1st March, 1991 as against 683.3 million in 1981. Thus, the absolute addition to the population in the decade of 1981-91 was 163 million, which is almost equal to the population added during the three decades 1931-41, 1941-51 and 1951-61. The annual average exponential growth rate of population has marginally come down from 2.22 per cent during 1971-81 to 2.14 per cent during 1981-91. Another important feature

of the 1991 census was that the sex ratio, number of females for every 1000 males, which was 934 in 1981 declined to 927 in 1991. The high growth of population is overshadowing the achievements that the nation has made on the economic front. Every year around 17 million people are added to the population, which needs additional resources for clothing, housing, food, education, health, schooling etc. With 2.4 per cent of the world land area, India is presently supporting 16 per cent of the world population.

At this rate of growth, soon India's population will cross the staggering total of 900 million people. By the year 2035 A.D. it is predicted that India will have the dubious distinction of becoming the most populous country in the world, surpassing China's total as well. I had highlighted these startling facts in an international forum also last May. There, I had stressed that when such a situation is reached, it will be no longer India's problem alone. It will then become a global issue, as there will be mass-scale migration from India to the lesser-population countries, putting pressure on their diminishing resources for the very survival of mankind.

The issue of education as a means of empowering women drives home the point that unless women, constituting 50 per cent of the world population are educated, the overall social and economic development of the country would remain retarded. The key issue of greater mobilisation of both internal and external resources for basic education calling for restructuring budgets to provide higher allocation of resources for education.

It is generally acknowledged, despite its centrality, female education remains neglected with girls accounting for 81 million of the 130 million "out of school" children, while two-thirds of the estimated 948 million

illiterate adults worldwide are women. While some progress had been made in the enrolment of girls, pronounced gender gaps still persist in all regions, with the exception of Latin America. At present, one out of three adult women cannot read or write, compared with one out of five adult males. Studies had confirmed that countries which made higher allocation for women's education, experienced higher economic productivity, lower fertility rates, lower infant and maternal mortality and improved levels of life expectancy for both men and women. For instance, evidence indicated that each additional year of schooling of mothers translates into a decline in child mortality, ranging from 5 to 10 per cent. It is time to put literacy and education within the reach of all girls and women. This could be done by reducing the cost of sending girls to schools through the provision of scholarships or stipends to parents, increasing the number of female teachers and providing high-quality schooling and relevant curriculum.

To sum up, one could say that while the rate of population growth is declining, we are still adding rapidly to the numbers in the country. There is need to take concerted action to bring about a drastic reduction in the rate of growth of population if we are to consolidate the gains from growth and development. While we have achieved near self-sufficiency in the production of foodgrains, our position remains uncertain, given our dependence on the monsoons as our agriculture is still predominantly rain-fed. Productive gainful employment in rural areas is the only way to bring about poverty alleviation and improve the quality of life of rural people. However, given the paucity of resources in relation to population, the process of development in rural areas will be slow. But as is well-known, population growth depresses the standard of living of the people, and poverty results in larger families.

Hence, a holistic approach to rural development, with a focus on larger numbers of employment opportunities, health and education facilities and large investments in the agricultural sector is called for if we are to achieve our goals. The main thrust of family planning should be directed to the rural areas, where 70 per cent of Indian population dwells.

Population control needs to receive the immediate attention of all. In the new environment of decentralised planning via people's institution and panchayats at the district and sub-district levels, we should be able to plan better, given our resources both physical and financial. There is a great hope for India, if we can utilise our manpower better and unleash the latent energies of our people. Government must involve the commendable voluntary organisations as well, to augment its efforts in this direction.

To give a major thrust in this priority area, which constitutes pivotal point for the success of all developmental efforts, a National Population Policy needs to be enunciated and adopted by the Government. Given the political commitment at all levels, it must generate a cascading effect to become a people's movement. Social determinants such as female literacy, age at marriage, employment opportunities for women and their status in society are as important as achieving a reduction in infant mortality, improving health and nutrition of pre-school child, and providing a comprehensive package of maternal health-care services.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI (AMRELLI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, extended time is over. Sitting of the House for the day was extended upto 7.30 P.M.

[Sh. Dileep Bhai Sanghani]

Now House should be adjourned because consensus of the House was not sought for further extending the sitting of the day.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down quietly.

[*English*]

SHRIGOPINATHGAJAPATHI : Such an intersectoral interaction supported by political commitment and a popular mass movement would, I dare say, constitute the approach to achieving the desired results of putting India on the road to economic and all round advancement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are hardly two or three more members to speak. If you all extend your kind cooperation, people who have been sitting for a fairly long time can also be given an opportunity to speak on the subject. My earnest request to all the hon. Members is to cooperate with the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the House is to sit beyond 7.30 P.M. then please seek permission of the House. Though lack of quorum could be raised but I am not raising it.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have extended the time of the House. The Chair need not request the House for this. Seeing the mood of the House it may be automatically extended.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Viyayawada) : Mr. Deputy Speak-

er Sir, a very important issue is being discussed in the House. Without repeating what my friends who have spoken earlier have said, I would like to say a few words.

I had an occasion to visit China along with the members of the Parliamentarians for Population and Development sometime back. Though China has started the population control measures much late when compared to our country, they have achieved to a great extent arresting of population growth. There we have found a concerted effort on the part of the Government and the Communist Party. We have also found that almost every Government official is involved in this population control programme in China. There have been dedicated efforts and they have stressed the need to propagate this to the neighbours to cooperate in this family planning programme.

There, of course, of late the Government has taken the programme of one child policy mostly in the urban areas and still in the rural areas when the first child is not a male child, they are given exemption. Of course, the situation is quite different; it is a totalitarian set up and the Government is able to achieve it. In our country as I have said earlier though we were the first to take up this by the Government itself, we could achieve success only to some extent in the family planning programme. Here also there are some very encouraging results from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa. We have to analyse how Kerala and Tamil Nadu could achieve such encouraging results. My submission to the Government is that population control or family welfare should not be confined to a single point programme of getting operations done either to the male or to the female. People should be enlightened, about the benefits which they will derive and which can be achieved through

prolonging the marriage age and adopting spacing methods.

My information is that Kerala, because of high literacy rate and also because of extension of the health services to the rural areas, in the case of percentage of beds in the rural area, stands highest with 58 per cent whereas in our country, the national average is only 17 per cent. When the health services are made available in the rural areas, the poor people especially the mother and the child will be able to take maximum health care from the hospital and the child's ability to survive increases. That is why the infant mortality rate is much less in Kerala. Of course, in Tamilnadu the situation is slightly different. In our country, what we feel is that when the socio-economic status increases, that leads to population control. In our country, Punjab tops the entire States' list in the matter of per capita income. Though Kerala and Tamilnadu are not that prosperous, those States have made substantial progress. My submission to the Government is that the Government must involve political parties, voluntary organisations and others because this should be the programme which should be given the highest priority.

In this connection, I would like to give some suggestions. When some organisation had made a deep study into the marriageable age and into the health of the mother and child, it was found that when the female marries between the age of 22 and 27 years, then, the health of the mother either during pre-pregnancy period or during post-delivery, as well as that of the child will be fairly satisfactory. My information is that the Tamilnadu Government has been making substantial efforts to convey this message to the people. Presently, the marriageable age of women is slightly increasing. I think, it is more than 20 years there. Tamilnadu

Government, I am told, has started some incentive schemes particularly for women if the spacing is there. Suppose if a woman marries after 20 years of age, so much is the incentive; and after that if she adopts some spacing some more incentives, like that. My information is that that Government has taken up some incentive programmes. I would like to say that those incentive schemes should be further strengthened. My suggestion to the Government is this. In our country, till now, the slogan is two or three children. But, the Government should have the slogan 'one or two children'. The Government should seriously think of giving incentives for other States also. Suppose if a female adopts family planning - either of them gets operated - and if they have got only one child, then the health care of that child should be assured by the Government. That single child should be given free education. When these families, the poor families including the families of the weaker sections, have only one child, they must be given the highest priority in the matter of self-employment schemes or DRDA programmes or CRY programmes or Prime Minister's Rozgar Programme or any economic welfare schemes or other programmes. Those families who are contented with a single child should be given the topmost priority.

In the matter of housing, we are giving Indira Awas Programme for poor harijans and tribal people.

In all such schemes, the first priority should be given to that family who are content with a single child. The next priority should be given to a family with two children. My assertion is that the Government should also think of disincentives to the officials or the employees, including the politicians also - of course, though not with a retrospective effect but with a prospective effect. The

[Sh. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

Government may bring a suitable legislation so that right from Members of Parliament down to the Members of the Panchayats, that is, those persons who have one or two children, will be eligible to contest the elections. Some such thing should come forward in the future times:

AN HON. MEMBER : What about bachelors?

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : They should be given the highest priority.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We should start from political parties. While selecting the candidates they should base their judgment on these lines.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Yes, Sir.

The other point which I want to make is that the Government must also involve the religious leaders. We had been to Indonesia, along with the then Speaker, Shri Balram Jakhar, where 90 per cent of the population are Muslims. The President of that country had convened a meeting of all the religious leaders and told them that the population growth should be contained in the interest of the nation. In the interest of the people and they must extend their cooperation. You will be surprised to know that Shrimati Suharto is the Chairman of the committee which overlooks the population control programme in Indonesia.

There is some belief - it may be unscientific and unfounded - that some religions are against family planning programme or population control. But no religion is against population control. In a

country like ours, where 39 per cent of the people are below the poverty line and most of them are living in the rural areas, there will definitely be some influence of the religious leaders. So, the Government must convene a meeting of the heads of various religions. It must appeal to them that this is the danger before the country. Under any circumstances, we have to prevent the growth of population. With an appeal like 'please extend us the help in this programme', the Government must take the cooperation of all the religious leaders.

Another point is that the status of women plays a very important part in this. In Kerala, as we know, unlike other States, the women have more right in the property than what the male members get. Since a very long time, the women are given the highest regard in that State. The literacy among women in that State is the highest. That has helped Kerala in achieving the goals which are set to be achieved by the year 2000 A.D. So, those examples may be taken care of.

Let us understand why it has succeeded, to some extent in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Let those experiences be taken into consideration. That may be implemented in other States.

Finally, I would like to say one more thing. The Government is now giving two increments to the Government employees who undergo some operation. A person, who is already educated, who is drawing a good amount of salary, is given two increments. By the time he retires, he is benefited to the tune of several thousand of rupees. During emergency, such a decision was taken and it is being continued. But when a poor uneducated fellow in the rural area undergoes an operation, he is hardly given Rs. 150 out of which so many people share the money. My submission to the

Government is to enhance this incentive amount to the poor uneducated fellow. There is a maximum necessity to convince and encourage this man to undergo operation rather than an educated person who knows that a big family will be a burden on him.

Finally, I would appeal to the Government that it should be an integral approach and along with the family planning programme, Government must try to eradicate illiteracy and must also increase the budgetary allocations for health care which alone, when taken up together, will yield better results. In this connection, I request the Government to come forward with a national policy and the Prime Minister as the Chairman of the National Population Commission to effectively implement these programmes and at the State level, the Chief Ministers may be the heads of such State level Commissions.

With these words, I thank you, Sir.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have sought the floor primarily out of pride of being an elected representative of Tamil Nadu because the experience of Tamil Nadu in the area of family welfare is of most

crucial relevance to the subject which we are discussing here. Sir, it has been known traditionally that in Kerala and Goa, we have succeeded in having relatively low birth rates. This was always attributed to some special characteristics of these two States.

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI (AMRELI): Sir, there is no quorum in the House.

19.47 hours

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The bell is being rung.

The bell has been rung. Since there is no quorum in the House, the House stands adjourned to re-assemble on Thursday, the 23rd December at 11 a.m. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is on his legs. He will continue his speech tomorrow. Shri Tej Narain Singh, Shri Ashok Deshmukh and Shri Ravi Mallu also will speak tomorrow.

19.51 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 23, 1993/ Pausa 2, 1915 (Saka)