

**REMOVAL OF ENCROACHMENTS ON  
LAND IN THE NAME OF RELIGION  
BILL\***

**SHRI B.V. DESAI (Raichur) :** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prevent the encroachments on land in the name of religion.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prevent the encroachments on land in the name of religion.

*The Motion was adopted.*

**SHRI B.V. DESAI :** I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

**ANTI-POPULATION EXPLOSION BILL**

*- Contd.*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** Now, we take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri P. Rajagopal Naidu on 27 July, 1984, namely :-

"That the Bill to provide for measures to restrict the growth of population in the country, be taken into consideration."

**SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South) :** This is an important Bill because it deals with population and also measures that are required for the control of population. There can be no two opinions in this country about the control of population. I have seen no serious political party opposing control of population except certain parties based on religion or religious groups. And also the differences are as to the methods that are to be adopted—whether compulsion should be adopted or persuasion should be the method. I feel that the democratic method is persuasion. Unless and until

people feel for themselves that it is necessary, by compulsion it is not possible. And the most important thing is to educate them, to make them conscious so that they voluntarily come forward for population control, for restriction of birth rate. The greatest impediment, to my mind, is the illiteracy in our country. Most of our people live in the villages. And in the villages they are still ruled by customs, traditions, obscurantist ideas and in certain spheres, religion also plays a dominant role. That is why, some reform in the religions is also necessary so that they can adopt the modern attitude. While having no quarrel with the Government in its policy on family planning through persuasive method, I have definitely a quarrel with them so far as their profession is concerned. Everywhere you will find the boarding 'If you want to have a happy family, have a small family'. Will the Government guarantee to all the families which are small that they will be happy? For happiness what is necessary is bread, shelter, education, health and security. I think, by simply restricting the family our people would not get all these things. And also a very dangerous idea is propagated amongst the people that the root cause of our misery is our population. The whole emphasis is on population. Is it true that because of our rising population our poverty is increasing? The Government would like us believe that this is the main reason. I would suggest that this is a very wrong notion.

While admitting that population control is necessary, I must emphasize the fact that population increase is also the result of low standard of living. It has been proved conclusively by the social scientists, by the experts, that the countries where the protein intake is less, where the people live in poverty, there is a tendency for growth in population. Look at the African countries, where the per capita income is low. Some of those countries are developing and some of them are under-developed. The growth of population is directly related to the abject poverty they are in. I would refer to a book, which is still regarded as an authority on the subject, *Geo-politics of Hunger* by Castro (not by Fidel Castro, but by FAO expert Castro), where he has proved by statistics