

17.56 hrs.

[SRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI in the CHAIR]

With regard to the other suggestions given by the hon. Members, I would like to point out that whether it is West Bengal or Assam, we are trying to explore oil wherever we can find it. Our effort is to increase oil production to the best possible extent and to find new locations. And, therefore, West Bengal or the Bay of Bengal, whatever has been suggested is not going to be neglected. In view of our resources, we are carrying out all this work.

Similarly, the refining capacity is also going to be expanded. We are taking every care to expand the existing refining capacity.

As far as Assam is concerned, it is not correct to say that Assam has been neglected in the matter of setting up of refineries. Assam has got Digboi Refinery, Gauhati Refinery and Bongaigaon Refinery. These meet the local demand sufficiently. Not only that, apart from crude oil which flows from Assam to Barauni, some petroleum products have to be exported out of Assam. Therefore, the position is that we are taking care of Assam. With regard to the development of Assam in regard to oil, we are very fortunate that in the recent days ONGC and Oil India people have struck oil in Arunachal Pradesh, in some parts of Assam and also in some parts of Gujarat. We are hopeful that the work in offshore Andhra Pradesh will be taken up more seriously.

We have encountered difficulties in the initial stages. We shall try to overcome them and we shall try to find out oil in Mahanadi and Godavari basin.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, 1959, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now it is

6 O'Clock. We may take up Half-An-Hour discussion.

18.20 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

INCENTIVES AND DISINCENTIVES TO CHECK POPULATION

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take up Half-An-Hour Discussion.

Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sure, you are convinced that the answer to Starred Question No. 640, given on 2nd April, 1981 regarding incentives and disincentives to check population was incomplete. So, it is necessary that there should be a general consensus of Members of Parliament, MLAs, MLCs and the people in general as a whole on this matter and that there should be a decision taken in this regard.

The radiation hazard created by nuclear explosion has no resemblance to population explosion at all because in the case of nuclear explosion, only a few areas or a few people will die of radiation sickness or radiation hazard. But in the case of population explosion which the country is facing it has got a greater impact on socio-economic conditions of the people. We are not going to discuss the world phenomena in developed countries which can sustain such a population explosion. There is automatically a decline in the birth rate of developed countries. But in India the population explosion is alarming. If you analyse the birth rate, if you analyse the population explosion, from 1951 to 1981, according to the latest census figures, there is hundred per cent increase in the population. In 1951, the population was 360 million and now, in 1981, it has shot up to 684 million.

According to the demographic study made by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, in which they have analysed different population

[Dr. Krupesindhu Bhasi]

statistics of those areas, the explosion of population in those areas is 1.9 per cent per year whereas in India, the latest census shows that it is more than 2.68 per cent per year. If you compare the measures undertaken by the Government in 1976 and before 1976 also, the family planning programme which was then envisaged had been curtailed, sabotaged and mis-propagated during the regime of Janata Party so that it had a great set-back to the population control programme. So, we must have a new look at it. A separate Department of Population control should be established and a separate Cabinet Minister should be put in charge of this population control programme.

Now, I would like to give the date as to how the population explosion has affected the Indian economy. The GNP growth rate increased during the period from 1951 to 1981 by 50 per cent whereas the population has increased by hundred per cent. It has doubled. If the population increases at this rate in India, then by 2000 A.D., it will reach to more than 100 crores. As regards the density of population also, it is said that each person will not get an area of more than 5.6 feet for his burial.

In this context, I would say that it is time that we should have a fresh look at this problem. I would say one thing—somebody may take an offence—that in India, there is poverty in the midst of prosperity and ladies are more fertile than land.

Let us take China for comparison. It is an economically backward country. It is still in a developing stage. But they have achieved their goal. If we go through the statistics, we can find that no country in South-East Asia has attained a growth-rate of 11 per thousand.

But we have still to achieve our goal.

Bangladesh has announced zero growth-rate. But it has yet to succeed in reducing birth-rate.

Japan has achieved its goal. Growth-rate has declined.

Even Arabian countries are adopting this population control method.

No country has yet framed any legislation to curb the population growth. But in developing countries, population control is a must. It has to be adopted according to one's status and position.

India's economy and socio-economic conditions and customs are different from China. Incentives are given in China. More than 29 million people are benefited. Each family has one child only. They are getting incentives such as free land, free house and employment. 10 million people registered their names pledging to have only one child.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Minister to take concrete steps to achieve our goal.

The Sixth Plan envisages an expenditure of only Rs. 1,400 crores on this account. But, if you want to bring about family planning through persuasion, as explained by Mrs. Gandhi in her interview to Doordarshan, that will not materialise.

This present organisation, the present system of administration which is set up for population control will not serve the purpose. It is only just like pelting a stone over a mountain. It is a drop in the ocean. For proper monitoring and allocation of sufficient funds, the Health Ministry should urge the Finance Ministry. The leaders of our country should be impressed that if the growth-rate of 1 per cent is to be achieved, then the necessary funds should be provided for motivation, incentive and for research programmes.

My suggestion is that there should be no restriction for adoption of abortion in our country as is the practice in Japan. A statute should be laid down for encouraging abortion both for married and unmarried ladies. We

should not entertain doubts whether it is practicable in India or not. We are bound to take some measures.

We have to bring about greater awareness through films among the people of the benefits of abortion. Even 8 million metre films can be shown in each village depicting the advantages of abortion. The people will be educated. They will come to know of the evacuator. It is a very simple process. 12 weeks of pregnancy can be terminated within 2 to 3 minutes. If the pregnancy is more prolonged, it can be terminated within 10 minutes. It is not a problem. The cost of evacuator is Rs. 800 or Rs. 1,000/-. It can be supplied to all the sub-centres of the country. The process of abortion is no longer a hazard for the health or life of mother.

In Japan, the programme of family planning is implemented without taking any sterner measures.

The second point is regarding marriage. In 1976, some important features of the national population policy were laid down. They were not adhered to by the Janata Government with the result that the defects in the implementation of the programme are not removed and they are continuing even today. The age of marriage has been raised from 15 to 18 for girls and from 18 to 21 for boys. It should be revised again; 18 years should be revised to 21; and 21 years should be revised to 24. The objective was spacing of children, reducing the population growth. But, it has shot up causing concern to everybody. So, the age of marriage should be revised.

Each district headquarter hospital should have three to four mobile vans to take spot decisions and to conduct spot operations in villages. Sterilisation of females should be done. Tubectomy is very popular in Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Why can't it be

popularised throughout the country? I was hearing the Minister of State the other day. He was saying that in Punjab, U.P. and other places, this operation took more than 20 to 30 minutes. I am a doctor; I was practising; I was a medical officer; I was conducting the operation within five to seven minutes. It is not a big thing. We have the latest developments: laparoscope has been invented; laparocloudy has been invented; by that process, the time consumption is very much less. The doctors should move into the villages and conduct the operations. Within a day 40 to 50 operations can be done. This should be popularised throughout the country.

Though family planning is in the Concurrent List—it has been taken by the Government of India in 1977—no measures have been taken at the Central level for monitoring in different States. For that, the States which are nearer to Delhi are at fault. Why not the Chief Ministers of those States take up this particular programme in their hands? They should monitor and they should achieve the goal of increase of only eleven per cent in decadal growth. That should be our aim.

For motivation purposes, I would suggest to the Minister that more females should be educated, so that they can convince the females by going door to door; they can have the sterilisation operation done in no time.

We have recently passed in the Lok Sabha a Resolution for continuance of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is a welcome thing. Why not in this Session pass a Resolution on national consensus for population check? Irrespective of caste or religion or creed, we should have a general consensus because no country outside India is adverse to population control. We can adopt any method. In the next Session of Parliament, a stringent legislation should be brought forward to check the population. Unless and un-

[Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi]

till that is done, I do not think our socio-economic condition will improve. It is said that, if people are poor, they are averse to it. But in Orissa nobody is averse to it; everybody is coming forward. Motivation was less and financial assistance was less. If the population increases to 100 crores by 2,000 A.D., then the GNP will not increase at that level. I must request the Minister to think about this matter and have a legislation...

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): There should be no legislation; you cannot legislate on this issue.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Don't worry. In India...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: In this legislation, particularly, there must be a provision; if some body is a barrier in the implementation of small family norm, he should be taken to task. Because no country in the world is averse to population control. Among the developing countries India cannot afford to do so. India is one country which up till now has not achieved the goal. It is more than 24.68 per cent in a decade.

The last point that I wish to make is that a separate Department of Population Control and Family Planning should be set up under the chairmanship of a Cabinet Minister at the headquarters, that is, at Delhi and also in the States a separate Ministry should be there. Hundred per cent incentive should be given. The State Governments should also come forward to add to the incentives.

Another measure by the State can be that the Reserve Bank of India should be asked to ban overdrafts to States which are not coming under the parameters of the Central guidelines.

So many things are there but you are not giving me time and you are ringing the bell.

This thing is very important to the nation. How can we bring down this 24.68 per cent of decadal growth to 11 per cent? The family planning programme envisaged in the Sixth Plan aims at a growth rate of 21 per cent crude birth rate per thousand and the crude death rate will be reduced to 9. Unless and until some stringent measures are taken, we cannot achieve this goal. The stringent measures I have told, the Ministry should look into.

Lastly I will urge upon the Minister that in the Government a criteria should be fixed that MLAs and MPs, as we are the lawmakers, should not break the law and one child per family should be the ideal. This is the international dialogue of the day and in all the developing nations there is so much concern. So many seminars are being conducted. Why not the MLAs, MPs and members of the Gram Panchayats also follow these guidelines? More money should be given to the States which are very much realising the population explosion and achieve 1.1 per cent rate per year. It should not be more than that. It should be 1.1 per cent increase and the death rate should be 0.5 per cent per year.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Please reject the demand for legislation. Please do that so that the nation may come to know. This demand is going to create tension.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Mr. Chairman....

SHRI KAMALAPATI TRIPATHI (Varanasi): There are only 10 minutes left for you.

SHRI R. P. YADAV (Madhepura): And other members are also there.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I am really thankful to the hon. Member

who has raised this question and given an opportunity to the House to discuss the very important issue of population. The House has seized the opportunity and I am happy that many members are present here. This shows the earnestness of the House on a very serious question facing the nation. ...

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI (Patna): Very few are here.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Very few on that side.

Sir, the hon. Member has made many important and valuable suggestions which deserve the attention of the Government and the House also. He has suggested a separate, independent, ministry for population control. He has suggested many long-term and short-term measures including legislation, registration of unemployed, registration of the people who are willing to have only one child. Sir, all these suggestions, I have taken note of. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you concluding?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I have not finished. Do you think I am going to conclude? I am going to respond.

Sir, the present Government are fully aware of the consequences to this country from burgeoning population growth. We are committed to providing better quality of life for the people, particularly to the weaker sections and the minorities. We are fully conscious that our efforts will not succeed if unchecked population growth continues to erode into our investments for socio-economic development. We are also conscious that there can be no meaningful improvement in the quality of life of the vulnerable sections consisting of women and children in our society, unless both receive proper care and attention in all respects. For mothers to look after themselves and to look after their children, they should have the knowledge that they can choose

the time of arrival and number of their children. The women should choose that and it should be their right. And they should have the right in the matter which genuinely pertain not only to their health but also to the health of the children and, ultimately, to the healthy life of the family itself. They should also be educated on all methods and be provided the means to adopt such methods as each couple desires. The choice should be theirs. We are convinced that unless our women are liberated from the tyranny of repeated and unregulated child-bearing and child-rearing, the entire family will suffer. Family planning, therefore, is relevant not only from the overall national perspective but much more so from the point of view of each family itself. As stated by our Prime Minister, our people, especially, our women folk, do want family planning and we have to give them guidance and information and approach them with humility. Unless a sense of respectability is created in the matter of family planning and unless this concept is accepted to the society, we will not succeed in the matter of family planning whatever amount we are going to spend in this Plan or in any future plans. It is to be totally acceptable to the society as a whole. There is a very important element of voluntary acceptance by the people, by the women and by the society as a whole. Therefore, we cannot afford to have any compulsion or coercion. This is a social programme involving attitudinal and behavioural changes. As I said earlier, these changes should be embedded in the way of life of our people. For such long-term results, there can be no short-term legislative answers. The Government is, therefore, totally opposed to any form of coercion or compulsion. The Government will relentlessly pursue the provision for providing information, education, motivation as well as expansion of services and supply availability to promote voluntary acceptance of the programme. This I am making

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more clear to the House because in the recent past this family planning programme was distorted for political motive which has done greatest damage to the country. So, Government has to be very cautious in the matter. Our census of 1978 has shown that in some States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Orissa population growth has been dramatically checked. The hon. Member hails from that State and, as such, has every reason to be proud of his State. Orissa has proved that poverty does not come in the way of family planning. Orissa has been doing it silently, cautiously and regularly and that is why the results are so encouraging as far as Orissa is concerned.

But, Sir, there are some States which have made very wild strides in the field of economic development but have not been able to keep pace with progress in the family planning programme. I wish these States also to follow the course shown by the three States about which I have already mentioned.

Sir, I accept the suggestion made by the hon. Member that the Chief Ministers should take interest in the matter. I have myself written to the Chief Ministers of all the States about the interest that each State Government should take in the family planning programme. Sir, the Prime Minister has also written to the Chief Ministers that they should take interest in this very important programme which will make or mar the future of this country.

Sir, the decade 1980 has thrown a very serious challenge to the nation. The very survival of the nation and its future depends on what we do in this decade. If we fail then no amount of financial provision that we may make in the Sixth or Seventh Five Year Plan will help us. We will be simply probing in the dark. The hon. Member has warned that the popula-

tion explosion is yawning at us. But, Sir, I am not pessimistic because I do seek the cooperation of the whole House, cooperation of all the political parties and sections of the people and the nation as a whole to make this a national programme and a national movement.

The House is aware that compensation at specified rates is given under the National Family Planning Programmes to persons who undergo sterilisation or IUD insertions. The compensation is given to off-set the loss of earning by the individual acceptors on account of the time spent by them in undergoing sterilisation/IUD insertion procedures and subsequent convalescence before return to active work. Some States have added to these rates from their own funds. Certain monetary incentives have also been introduced by the Central Government for its employees. A number of State Governments have also adopted them. The Government would give the utmost consideration to all the suggestions made by hon. Members in this regard, and will incorporate them in the Family Planning Programme to the extent possible.

The Census has also shown that our earlier efforts have on a national scale brought down marginally the growth rate during 1971-81 decade. While this is cause for some satisfaction we are more concerned about the size of the huge problem which we still have to tackle.

I would like to inform the House that during the period 1980-81, the performance level in various methods of Family Planning in the country has significantly gone up. Efforts will be made to further improve the performance. Our Prime Minister has already given a call to all the Chief Ministers to take personal interest in the programme. We shall keep on following the lead given to us in this regard. I can only assure the hon. Members once again that we share their concern completely and we

week their cooperation, both inside and outside the House to make this programme a national programme to be adopted by all sections of the society in which every citizen should add his share in educating the others. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Eduardo Faleiro. Please be brief.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): Mr. Chairman, I am agree that we must be brief. Already half-an-hour is almost over. Let me say this.

After hearing the emphasis of the Minister on the voluntary acceptance by the people of this programme and lack of coercion, I would only fervently plead with him that since Dooms Day is fast approaching, this emphasis on voluntary acceptance by the people should not be an excuse to inaction by the Government. During the emergency, certain family planning programmes were called excesses of emergency; this was wrongly and unfairly called as excesses of emergency of which hardly any proof came by, in spite of all the investigations done during the three years of the Janata rule. In view of this, Government, once bitten has become twice shy. And it has been said that Government has taken a nervous attitude, an attitude of one who is willing to strike but afraid to wound. But this attitude should not be there. The greatest calamity happened to Family Planning programme when Mr. Raj Narain was in charge of this Ministry for a couple of years since 1977. Now we have the present hon. Minister and this is a refreshing change and I do hope that he will bring this back on the rails. During the regime of Raj Narain, the rock-bottom was reached in the matter of non-implementation of the Family planning programme. What I wish to point out is this... Let me say this...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't go into files. Please ask a question.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Let me emphasise this. I am not here to

take a partisan attitude. This is a national question. And if it is a national question, we must be independent and not partisan. Since 1930 to 1980, decade by decade, our population has been growing. The percentage growth in 1930 was 11 per cent. In 1940, 14.33 per cent; in 1950, 18.31 per cent; in 1960, 21 per cent and odd; in 1970, 24.5 per cent and in 1980, 24.75 per cent. Now, Sir, the point which I am making is this: We have not had any opportunity to discuss this most fundamental question in our country. We have not had time to discuss this in this House. You know that from the First Plan upto the Sixth Plan, the actual expenditure has always been less in every single plan than the allocation for Family Planning. In every single plan it has been kept less. I would like to ask the hon. Minister a few pointed questions, a few pointed queries. Since it is not a partisan issue, since we are striving to arrive at national consensus, will the hon. Minister call for a meeting of the leaders of all the political parties and evolve a consensus and agreement? Secondly, since this great task cannot be done by the Government alone, will the Government consider involving in this programme voluntary organisations also and if so, to what extent? Because, it is not a programme which can be done by the Government alone. It has been proved over the decades. Thirdly, is it not a fact that it is not correct that the minorities are opposed to it? It is not correct. You look at Kerala State and Goa where there are a large number of Christian population. In Assam State, there is a good percentage of Muslim population and you will see that the rate of growth in those States is less than the average rate of growth of population of the whole nation. What steps will the Government take to educate the people, not merely to have short films but also involving the village people through folk media, Kirtan Kars, etc.? The hon. Minister has written letters to the Chief Minis-

[Shri Eduardo Faleiro]

ters of the States. What is their response? What has been the result? Have you been able to have an evaluation of this programme at the State level? I would like the hon. Minister to reply to these questions and I thank you, Sir, for permitting me to speak.

श्री रामबिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : सभापति महोदय, सभी माननीय सदस्यों ने अपने-अपने विचार रखे हैं, लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि जितने भी सुझाव दिए गए हैं, वे देश की केवल 15 परसेंट पापूलेशन पर लागू होते हैं, हिन्दुस्तान की जो 85 प्रतिशत जनता है, जो गरीब लोग हैं, जिनके मन में यह भावना पैदा हो गई है कि हमारे दो बच्चे हों या 15 बच्चे हों, वे भगवान के भरोसे हैं और किसी के यहाँ नौकरी कर के या गाय-भैंस चराकर अपना जीवन निर्वाह कर लेंगे और उनको खाना मिल जायेगा, जब तक सरकार उनके लिए शिक्षा की व्यवस्था नहीं करती है, जब तक उनको आर्थिक दृष्टि से समर्थ नहीं बनाया जाता है, जब तक उनमें यह भाव न हो कि इस देश के राजकाज में उनका भी हिस्सा होगा, जब तक उनको यह नालूम नहीं होगा कि अगर उनके दो बच्चे होंगे तो उनको रोजगार मिलेगा, तब तक सरकार चाहे लाख कहे, वे लोग कुछ नहीं समझेंगे। सरकार अपने अफसरों को कहेगी कि फैमिली प्लानिंग के बारे में कार्यवाही करो और जनसंख्या को कम करो; अफसर फिर उसी गांव में जायेगा, हरिजन टोले में जायेगा, उसको अपनी नौकरी बचानी है। परिणाम यह होगा कि उन्हीं गरीब लोगों की नसबन्दी होगी। यह बेसिक एप्रोच और प्रैक्टिकल एप्रोच हमें अपने सामने रखनी होगी कि हिन्दुस्तान में जो गांव में रहने वाले और झोंपड़ियों में रहने वाले लोग हैं, उनमें शिक्षा का प्रसार किया जाये। जो लोग दिल्ली

और पटना आदि शहरों में रहते हैं वे तो महंगाई से त्रस्त होते हैं, वे काहे के लिए अपनी फैमिली को बढ़ायेंगे ?

सबसे बड़ी प्राबलम देश की 85 प्रतिशत जनता की है, जिसके कारण पापूलेशन प्रोग्राम रूप से बढ़ रही है। यही लोग नौकरी के लिए दिल्ली, कलकत्ता और मद्रास आदि शहरों में आ रहे हैं, जिससे रोड ट्रांसपोर्ट आदि अस्त-व्यवस्त होते हैं। जब तक सरकार गांव में रहने वाले अशिक्षित लोगों को शिक्षित नहीं करेगी, आर्थिक दृष्टि से उनको समर्थ नहीं बनायेगी, उनको रोजगार की गारन्टी नहीं देगी, तब तक पापूलेशन चैक नहीं होगी। इसलिए सरकार का सबसे बड़ा दायित्व यह है कि वह अपनी मशीनरी को चुस्त और दुस्त करे, लेकिन मुझे भय है कि वह मशीनरी चुस्त और दुस्त नहीं हो पाती है।

श्री लास्कर को मालूम है, परसों मैं ने एक औरत के सम्बन्ध में टेलीफोन किया था, वह औरत जल गई थी और विलिंग्डन अस्पताल से उसको भगा दिया गया और कहा गया कि सफ्दरजंग अस्पताल में चली जाओ। रास्ते में ही उसकी मृत्यु हो गई। जो डाक्टर हमें यहां लाता है, वह बेचारा मेरे पास आया था। वह उसको लेकर अस्पताल में गया, जहां कि सारी व्यवस्था है, लेकिन उसको भर्ती नहीं किया गया और सफ्दरजंग अस्पताल भेज दिया गया, मगर रास्ते में ही उसकी मृत्यु हो गई। इससे ज्यादा शर्मनाक बात और कोई नहीं हो सकती है।

जो डाक्टर इतना राक्षस हो, जो आदमी को कुछ नहीं समझता है यदि सरकार उस पर विश्वास करेगी, तो कुछ नहीं हो पायेगा। इसलिए सरकार को

इस प्राबल्य के बारे में गहराई से सोचना होगा और इसके जो रूट-काजेज हैं, गरीबी, शिक्षा और बेरोजगारी, अगर सरकार उन्हें दूर करने का प्रयत्न करेगी तो पापुलेशन स्वयं चँक ही जायेगी।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : सभापति महोदय, मैं पहली बात तो यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि फिफ्थ फाइव ईयव प्लान के अंदर

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY (Asansol): Before you start your speech, you must ask all the Members to declare how many children they have got.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: I am going to ask that.

मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पांचवीं पांच वर्षीय योजना काल में परिवार नियोजन पर सरकार ने कुल कितना खर्च किया और उस का परिणाम क्या निकला? सवाल का (क) भाग यह है।

दूसरी बात—राम विलास जी ने ठीक ही कहा कि गरीबों के बच्चे अधिक होते हैं। उन के कारणों को आप जानते हैं और मैं भी जानता हूँ। तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ, गरीब सारे गांवों में रहते हैं। पांच लाख गांव है। पांच लाख गांवों में से सचमुच में कितने गांवों में आप के परिवार नियोजन की बात समझायी गई या इस के लिए प्रयास किया गया है ताकि गरीब समझे कि यह क्या बला है, क्या मर्ज है।

तीसरी बात अब मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ . . .

सभापति महोदय : तीसरी बात आखीरी बात होगी ?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : नहीं नहीं, चौथी बात आखीरी बात होगी।

हमारे यहां एक कहावत है कि— राह बता सो आगे चल। राह बताने वाले को आगे चलना चाहिए तभी हम मंजिले तक पहुंच सकते हैं। इसलिए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप ने मंत्रियों, सांसदों और विधायकों के बारे में भी लेखा जोखा लिया है कि आप की नीति के प्रति वे क्या कर रहे हैं। उस को अमल में लाने की दिशा में कोई कार्यवाही कर रहे या नहीं और आप उन को विशेष रूप से शिक्षित करने की कोई योजना बनाना चाहते हैं या नहीं ताकि वही से यह चीज चले। मालूम नहीं मंत्री लोगों के कितने बच्चे हैं।

श्री जी० एम० बनातवाला : वह तो जो होने थे वह हो गए।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : स्वर्गीय इशहाक साहब जो मंत्री थे उन के नीचे थे उस समय तक और उन्होंने इसी हाउस में कहा कि और बढ़ने वाले हैं।

आखीरी बात—आप ने ठीक ही कहा कि शहरों में तो आप कुछ प्रोत्साहन देते हैं लेकिन गांवों में कुछ प्रोत्साहन नहीं है। गांवों में प्रोत्साहन देने की जरूरत है। तो क्या गांवों में गरीबों के लिए प्रोत्साहन देने की कोई योजना आरंभ चालू करना चाहते हैं ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: My friend, Shri Eduardo Falcão has tried to paint the picture of family planning programme drafted by the Government in a very different way. I was little pained to hear from him that the Government is willing to strike but afraid to wound. That is

[Shri B. Shankranand]

not the approach of the Government; there is no question of the Government being willing to strike and afraid to wound. The House will appreciate that. The entire family planning programme is not to be looked from the point of view of just willing to strike and afraid to wound. That is not the approach and attitude of the Government to this problem. That should not be; it will not succeed. We do not want to wound or strike anybody.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: That is not the meaning; the meaning is that the Government is undecided.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: We are very much decided. I am glad that the hon. Member referred to the Janata regime and the way the things got distorted in those 3 years. There was a serious attack on the entire Family Planning at the cost of the nation's future. But I would not accept what he says that the Government is nervous and we are nervous in playing a very dynamic role in the field of Family Planning. No, we are very positive. We are conscious. We have aims and objectives very clear in our minds. And we are going ahead completely in this direction.

He has asked about the Plan provisions of the Five Year Plans. Sir, the first Five-Year Plan i.e. 1951-56, had only a provision of Rs. 65 lakhs for the entire period and only Rs. 14.50 lakhs were spent. In the Second Five-Year Plan i.e. from 1956-61, there was a provision of Rs. 4 crores 97 lakhs, but the amount spent was less than 50 per cent i.e. about Rs. 2 crores and 15 lakhs. Thereafter, there were three Annual Plans—1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69. The total amount that was spent during these three periods—I need not go into the details of each year—was Rs. 70 crores 46 lakhs, whereas the provision was Rs. 82 crores 93 lakhs. Then from 1969-74 i.e. in the Fourth Five Year Plan, the total Plan provision was

Rs. 285 crores and 75 lakhs while the amount spent was Rs. 284 crores, because at that time the entire big gamut of infrastructure of the Family Planning Programme was built up. That is the reason why such a huge money was provided and it was spent also. During the Fifth Five-Year Plan the provision was Rs. 285 crores 65 lakhs and the money spent was Rs. 408 crores and 98 lakhs.

And during the rolling Plan period of the Janata regime, Plan rolled and the Family Planning was also rolled like a hold-all of a traveller.

Now the present Sixth Five-Year of 1980-85. The provision made for 1980-81 is Rs. 140 crores and for 1981-82, we have provided about Rs. 155 crores for this purpose.

The hon. Member has asked whether we are willing to have a meeting of the leaders of the political parties. Sir, I have already appealed to all sections of the House to cooperate with us. It is not as though it is the responsibility of the Government alone. It is the nation's responsibility. If the nation accepts this responsibility, then we shall survive. It is for the better future of the nation that we have to act together and in a unison. The role of the Voluntary organisations also is very important, as he has said. We appreciate and I am really happy that the voluntary organisations are also coming forward to assist and supplement the efforts made by the Government.

With reference to the observations made by the Hon. Member, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, it is a fact. Why does the poor man want to have more children? If his life is not secure, if he has no necessary social security in life, and if he has the psychology that more children means more hands to work and more provisions to fall back upon, if he has a fear in mind that children are going to die, he will produce more children. Unless we remove this fear from his mind, I think we will not succeed in Family Planning.

Family Planning cannot be seen through sterilization. We do not have that approach. We are approaching the problem of growth of population through an integrated way of development of the society.

We have to. Otherwise, as I said earlier, more of population will have a telling effect on the solutions that we are trying to find for housing, hospitals, medicine, clothing and other problems. So, the poor man has to be told: "Look; smaller the family, better is your life." He should gain the confidence that even if he loses children, there will be something to fall back upon, and his future life, either in old age or in sickness, will be secure.

I agree with Mr. Paswan that the poor man should be taken into confidence, as far as his future and his family's future are concerned. Mr. Paswan has also said that the social attitude to the poor should also change. I agree with him. We have to change. The values have to change. The social values are changing, and they must change, in the interests of the nation's future.

Mr. Ramavatar Shastri is a very senior Member. He has asked about the Plan provisions. I have already given the figures; but he has said that the leaders should lead, and set an example. That is what he wanted. He quoted the number of children born to people, when there was no family planning at all.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: No; it was there.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Perhaps he is a *shastri*; and perhaps he is very conversant with Hindu philosophy. There were days when not only were marriages made in Heaven; but the couple were blessed by elders saying: "Ashta putri sowbhagyavati

bhava". That was the slogan in those days. The eligible couples were following the advice given by the then elders.

Now the slogan has changed. Now the slogan is: "We are two; and we have two." I make this request to the elders of the society: whenever they bless married couples, they should not say "Ashta putri sowbhagyavati bhava", but should say: "You should have only two, and no more." That should be the slogan and blessing to be given by elders—including Ramavatar Shastri.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: I have got only one.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I am requesting him to follow this. He is now an elder. I don't think he is in the age group of producing any children. He should have this approach. I am requesting the elders of the society to bless the couples in this manner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't question the potentiality of Mr. Shastri.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I am not. I don't mean that. So, I appeal to the House: Let this issue not be taken in a light manner. We cannot afford to treat this matter in a light manner. We have to treat it very seriously, and approach it very seriously. We have to put our heart and soul together into this. Our effort should be to channelize our resources in such a way that the country's future becomes bright. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned, to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.

18.54 hrs.

Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, April 30, 1981/ Vaisakha 10, 1903 (Saka).