

Control of Population

372. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Asia's population does our country have;

(b) the average growth rate of population in Asia and India respectively over the last five years; and

(c) the efforts being made to determine the most effective method of family planning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b). According to United Nation's Publication "World Population Prospects 1988", the estimated population of Asia and India and annual growth rate of population are as follows:

Year	Population (in '000' s)		Annual Growth Rate (%)	
	Asia	India	Asia	India
1985	2,834,226	769,183	1.85	2.08
1990	3,108,476	853,373		

India's population constitutes 27.14% and 27.45% of Asia population in 1985 and 1990 respectively.

(c) With a view to enroll more of younger age group and low parity couples towards Family Planning acceptance, spacing methods are given increased focus in the programme. However the Family Welfare Programme in India is being pursued on voluntary basis as a people's movement keeping in view the democratic traditions of the country and the couples are given details on all methods available but the choice of methods is left to that of the individual couple best suiting his/her needs.

Supply of Tea, Pulses and Soap Under Public Distribution System

373. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have directed States to distribute tea, pulses, soap etc. through the Public Distribution System; and

(b) the States that have commenced such supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Union Government have advised States and UTs. to consider distribution of more items of mass consumption like tea, pulses, soap etc. by using the Public Distribution System (PDS) outlets.

(b) According to the available information, some States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura etc. have been supplying one or more of items like tea, pulses, soap, salt, Match Boxes, exercise books etc. through PDS outlets.