

should formulate which schemes by which the growth of population could be controlled. As sum of more than five thousand crore of rupees had so far been spent on it. We concede that we could not achieve desired results from these schemes. We want to introduce several new schemes but are unable to implement them due to financial constraints.

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now hon. Minister has stated that although huge amount was spent on it but it did not yield desired result. Why do you not take any concrete step so that the people may have more faith in it? We want that people avail full benefit of these schemes. Were any efforts made by the Government to implement these schemes with strictness? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken in this regard?

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Sir, the issue of dowry is not related to this question but one thing is certain that the people have been benefited from it and it has brought the fertility rate down. Death rate has also come down and birth rate has also come down. It means that we have been benefited from it but life expectancy has increased considerably. At present death rate is 27 per thousand and average life-span is 58 years. Due to increased life span and decrease in death rate, population is increasing day by day. Unless we educate the masses through electronic media and make concerted efforts with the help of one and all, it is very difficult to achieve the desired result. We have adopted two child the norm as an ideal family. You know that all the progressive countries such as England, U.S.A. and France were able to control the population growth through mass awakening. So unless we create mass awakening through education, it will not be possible with the efforts of the Government alone.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, to our misfortune, thanks to the efforts of the opposition in the

last four years, who have never concentrated on the issues of the commonman and the country's development, the issue of population has never been discussed in a substantial way. In fact it is the population growth that is responsible for the people not feeling the development in this country, which is substantial....(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have suggested to the hon. Minister to provide some incentives like giving or assuring a deposit of a lakh of rupees to those who restrict their children to one to be given to them when they grow up or at the time of their marriage, i.e. after 25 years of their birth, by which the population growth can be brought to zero if not today, atleast in one or two decades. I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will provide substantial incentives to those who restrict their children to one, if not to a maximum of two.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any incentive for those who produce more than that?

[Translation]

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Although I quite clearly visualize, I shudder to state the staggering magnitude to which the present trend of population growth, if allowed to continue unabated, will reach.

MR. SPEAKER: Excellent, you have first if very nicely.

[English]

Conversion of Phosphogypsum into building material

*132. **SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN:** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Phosphogypsum, a waste product in the manufacture of phosphoric acid in the fertilizer industry, which is estimated to be around two million tonnes every year, can be, converted into building material, particularly for making plasters and prefabricated compo-

nents for the building industry;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to utilise phosphogypsum for converting in into building material; and

(c) whether any techno-economic study has been made to establish its utility, commercial viability and suitability and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI):

(a) to (c). Phosphogypsum a by-product in its processed and pure form, can be used in the production of plasters or as additives. The central Building Research Institute (CBRI) has developed the process for purification and processing of phosphogypsum.

Techno-economic study will be necessary to assess the economic viability for commercial production of building materials from phosphogypsum.

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN. Sir, the Chairman of a corporation in West Germany at Salzgitter has announced that they have established the techno-economic viability of using the material gypsum or phosphogypsum towards manufacture of various building materials such as ceiling tiles, artificial marble and special plastics. In view of the yawning gap between our need and the availability of raw materials for building, will the hon. Minister enquire into the methods used by this corporation in West Germany.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: This phosphogypsum is a by-product in manufacture of phosphoric acid in the fertiliser industry. It is true that it can be used for building material. But it cannot readily be used for that because of certain impurities. Without removing these impurities it cannot be used for the building material. For this the CBRI Roorkee and another Institute in Trivandrum have done some research. It is quite true that it can be used for the building material but at present very little research has been done on this aspect. The CBRI has submitted a feasibility report to Rastriya Chemicals

and Fertilisers, Bombay for production of phosphoric binders because this material creates environmental problems as it pollutes the underground water. It is a very big problem for the fertiliser plants which are dumping it in their vicinities. So we have approached the fertiliser plants and other institutions to do some research on this. We are hopeful that in the near future some research will be done. At present this phosphogypsum is being used as a retarder in the cement industry, in the alkaline soil reclamation, in the production of ammonia sulphate and many other things. production of gypsum plaster has been licensed to some small scale industries.

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN: It appears that our research in this field is not adequate. The Corporation claims that they have a project which shows economic advantages of using this gypsum in its natural form for constructing building material such as it is useful in economising the use of steel and for pre-fabricated components and in the manufacture of building material with low specific energy consumption. Will the hon. Minister really call for information and results of research work done by that Corporation?

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: It is true that there is not much headway in the research done in this field because we cannot use it straightaway for building material. In view of various technical and commercial constraints, so far no headway has been made in the commercial use of phosphogypsum for large scale production of building material. But one firm has applied for import of machinery to instal this plant. We have asked for the excise duty exemption for this machinery; so we are waiting for this also. A German firm has applied for this with collaboration of some Indian firm. We are asking for the excise duty exemption for this equipment.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: Sir, the shortfall of building materials in India is the major obstacle to housing in this country. Alternative materials have been looked into by various Departments

and various agencies of the hon. Minister, but unfortunately, now this new technology, which the hon. Minister herself agrees is feasible and is useful, cannot be given the go-ahead because there are certain impurities. It is known the world over that asbestos is an environmental hazard and is very bad for lung cancer—one of the things that you get by asbestos. Phosphate gypsum is a material that would help towards the growth of urbanisation of settling the housing problem of India. So, why not allow this to be used? If it has impurities, then reject it. But the Minister herself has said it is being used and we are not sure of the result. The result is there, as the hon. Member pointed out, in West Germany. So, why does the Government not allow the use of this material?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, all of us want that such a research is done so that new raw materials and new technology could be available for housing. There is no doubt about it that about 4.5 million tonnes of Phosphogypsum is available every year. As I said earlier, it can not be used in this form straightway unless we remove its impurities for which research is required to be conducted. We have succeeded in utilising it after removing the impurities. But no studies have so far been made with regard to its commercial viability and economic viability for large scale production. You are aware that last year a seminar was organised to find out ways and means as to how we could utilise the industrial waste and agriculture waste for housing. The Government and especially the Ministry laid much stress on this. All the research institutions have been conducting research on it. But research has not been done on a large scale. All the points have not been cleared. At no stage I have said that the research had not yielded any results. The results are encouraging and we hope for the best.

Public Opinion on Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India

*133. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the monographs on Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India, Vol-

ume-V was published as a draft for eliciting public opinion before finalising the notification as per provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940 and rules framed thereunder; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no provision in the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940 under which the Government is required to circulate the monographs for eliciting public opinion.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether Cineraria Maritima Succus is a homeopathic eye drops which has been clinically proved to be effective for cataract. These clinical trials were conducted on the West German product in 1970 in India. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that when the monographs of Cineraria Maritima Succus in homeopathic pharmacopoeia of India, volume-V, are not based on any recognised homeopathic pharmacopoeia of the world, how has the Government satisfied itself that the alkaloid content stated therein is not carcinogenic and hypetoxic and would not cause cancer if manufactured according to homeopathic pharmacopoeia of India. Secondly, under the rules, Director, Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, which is a Central Government organisation, has written to Drug Controller, Delhi, in December, 1988, to pick up samples of West Germany Cineraria Maritima Succus for testing by this laboratory and the product be banned. I would like to know whether his action was related to all imported Cineraria or was it biased to help one firm against the other.

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Sir, the thing is that by the standards mentioned in the (Interruptions).

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Sir, I do not want an answer, I want to request the Minister to investigate this.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over