

Amount earmarked for Family Planning Programme for 1981-82 and Achievement

*66. DR. KRUPASINDHU

BHOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount earmarked for family planning programme for 1981-82;

(b) what is the total amount so far spent by all the States on this account since April this year and what is the achievement so far made by each state in this regard;

(c) whether the achievement made so far in the current year in the matter of population control is much below the target;

(d) if so, what are the reasons thereof; and

(e) what firm action Government have taken to enforce family planning programme more vigorously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NITHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha. [*Placed in Library.* See No. LT-2951/81.]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : My question was :

“What is the amount earmarked for family planning programme for 1981-82?”

In the Budgetary provision there was an allocation of Rs. 1400 crores for the Sixth Five Year Plan and the answer says ‘Rs. 155 crores’. This is much below the target and expenditure is also like that.

In part (c) particularly I have asked:

“Whether the achievement made so far in the current year in the matter of population control is much below the target?”

The answer is No and the answer for (d) regarding the reasons is ‘It does not arise’. In the attached statement, if you see, in the matter of sterilisations, many of the States are much below the target.

So I want to know categorically from the Minister. According to the interview in the Doordarshan, Mr. Gandhi has envisaged a growth rate of 33 per thousand and the mortality rate at 9. So she wanted to bring it down to 21 per thousand though the international mortality rate was 4 to 5 per thousand. Keeping in view the Prime Minister’s Doordarshan interview, the target has been fixed. According to that target may I know whether all the States and Departments have fixed the targets and which are the States which have not achieved the target of the Prime Minister and whether the Department has envisaged the target of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi—this is my first question.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): As a matter of fact I have given a very detailed answer to this question and whatever information my friend wanted about the performance, good performance and non-performance of the various States is there.

The targets he referred to are to be achieved by the turn of the century. Sir, the concept of targets may not be mistaken only with reference to the terminal methods. There are various methods of family planning and having a small family like delaying the child, spacing children and then finally terminating the entire process.

But one fact I should bring to the notice of the House that this family

planning programme was knocked down. It was knocked down and very badly injured during the period of 1977-80. Now we took a great effort to make it healthy and restore its health and credibility in the country and the programme is picking up. So in that way, I should say, the result is very encouraging.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

My question was different (Interruptions) My question was the decadal growth of the country envisaged by Mrs. Gandhi in the Sixth Five Year Plan was 16 per cent. Keeping that in view—because 1+1 cannot be 3—we must take a prospective view. This is not a party matter. This is a matter of national interest and the national concept is 16% decadal growth rate which we have to achieve. Keeping in that in view, in the last half-an-hour discussion also I said the allocation of Rs. 1400 crores for the Sixth Plan just a spoonfeed. I want to know whether the Health Ministry will take it up with the Finance Ministry and get more allocation and whether in this Budget he will achieve a growth rate of 16%. That is my first question Sir, he has not answered my question properly...

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken too much time.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

My second supplementary is whether in the Department of Health and Family Planning there is a uniform policy . . . for appointment of Secretary, Commissioner of Family Planning, different Assistant Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners.

Now that has been changed. The Commissioner's Post for the Family Planning is now given to a bureaucrat. Before that, the Commissioner or the Additional Secretary, all the time, was manned by technocrats. Commissioner's job is purely that of a technocrat. So, there is a tussle between the technocrats and the bureaucrats. Previously, in three re-

gimes, that post was held by a technocrat. I want to know whether the Minister is aware of this fact. (Interruptions). What is the progress of research and development and whether the Minister is going to have the Research and Development Wing in a separate autonomous body throughout the country in the headquarters of the States? If this were done, the the Research and Development Wing can function better. What is the position of vaccine for population control which was envisaged previously?

MR. SPEAKER: Too long a supplementary. If this type of supplementary goes on, I do not know what will happen.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: No Sir. This is a very important question.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND:

Sir, the hon. Member referred to the dispute between technocrats and bureaucrats. There is nothing like this existing in my Ministry.

Regarding the work done in ICMR. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do you want a dispute between couple?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chatterjee is himself an advocate and he is trying to boost up his income!

SHRI B. SHANKARANAN : Sir, Shri Chatterjee also belongs to that profession. I am also an advocate but I do not plead a bad case.

Regarding research, the ICMR is an autonomous body and it is doing all the work that is needed in furtherance of this programme.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I asked a categorical question.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. Mr. Karan Singh.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Sir, I seek protection. If you are satisfied, I am satisfied. Are you satisfied?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a long supplementary.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: These posts were manned by technocrats for the last three regimes. Why this post was taken over by a bureaucrat? This is my simple question. I want to know whether vaccine has now come out.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Minister does not give a satisfactory reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, Dr. Karan Singh.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is, I think, now universally recognised and appreciated by all sections that family planning is one of the most vital programmes for the future of the nation. Sir, in regard to part (c) of the question, namely, whether the achievements made this year are below the target, the Minister was pleased to reply in the negative.

However, if you look at the sterilisation statements, you will find that our total target this year was about 29 lakhs. Only 11 lakh sterilisations have been achieved in seven months which is just about one-third of the total target. So, even according to the statement given by the Minister, the achievement so far, till the end of October, is well below the target.

This is the point I would like the Minister to clarify. The second point I would like him to clarify is this. There were three projections made of the population of India. By the end of the century, the most optimistic projection was 850 million,

the intermediate was 925 million and the most pessimistic projection was a thousand million.

Now, I would like the Minister to kindly tell the House as to whether the targets that have now been laid down by the Government are directed towards achieving the lower target, intermediate target or higher target because, as the says rightly, this is the cumulative effort. But, it seems to me that the targets that you have now set are so low that you will not be able to come to less than a thousand million by the end of the century. Would the Minister kindly clarify both these points—firstly, how is it that in seven months, only eleven lakh sterilisations have taken place against the target and, secondly, what is your target by the end of this century?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the hon. Member himself was the Health Minister at a very critical time. I would say fixing target does not at all mean that it is target only for sterilisation.

DR. KARAN SINGH: I was saying for sterilisation your targets are well below.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, if the hon. Member goes through the statement that I have made he will find that the performance of the bigger States like U.P. and Bihar is far below the national average. That eats away the better performance of the smaller States. That is the reason.

DR. KARAN SINGH: What about the second part of my question whether the targets which you are fixing are enough to achieve the desired goals by the end of the century?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, as has been earlier stated by me

the health of the family planning was injured and now I have done something to regain it and it is now gaining speed. In view of this I have fixed these targets. When it gains more speed the targets will be revised.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Sir, it seems the hon. Minister has fixed the higher target of hundred thousand millions because he is contributing to that target by having eight children himself.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, during the recent Asian Conference on Population when we were in China we were pleased to see the performance of Chinese Government on the population front. I would like to know whether the Government will give continuous incentive as is being done in China instead of the *ad hoc* ones given here. There they give say Rs. 50/- per month, more ration, more accommodation and so on. I would like to know whether Government is thinking on the line of giving continuous incentives? If so, when and how are they going to implement it?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the political system of China is entirely different from the political system of this country. In view of the democratic set-up of this country it has been often said by the Prime Minister herself that the family planning programme is to be liberated from the governmental action and made people's programme.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: What has incentive got to do with Communism and Democracy, Sir?

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The opposition seems to be indulging in taking this serious problem very lightly. And, I think, they are not in a mood to consider this problem

very seriously. I cannot say anything more now on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question. Member absent. This is a day of absence! Next question.

Demand of a Superfast Train between New Bongaigaon and Calcutta

*68. **SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of North Bengal, Assam and Eastern Region have demanded a superfast train between New Bongaigaon and Calcutta since long;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that it was already decided by the Railway to introduce such a superfast train;

(c) if so, reasons for the delay in introducing the train; and

(d) when such a train will be introduced and details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Introduction of additional Express trains between New Bongaigaon and Calcutta has been examined and not found feasible on account of acute shortage of coaches, constraints of capacity on sections enroute and at terminals at New Bongaigaon as well as Sealdah/Howrah.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: The answer of the hon. Minister is rather evasive. What I wanted to know was this: For want of a super-fast