

higher than what Government expected with their present family planning programme, and whether any study has been made as to why this rate of growth has been so high.

SHRI A. K. KISKU : From the figures it appears that West Bengal does not figure very high in growth rate compared to other States, but in the last three or four years health and family planning centres were the special targets of attack by the Naxalites. On the other hand, the organised sector, especially the Chambers of Commerce increased their activities to a great extent. So, I would say that the observation made by the hon. Member is not correct.

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that the publicity machinery of family planning and the mode of publicity are very weak in West Bengal ?

SHRI A. K. KISKU : The publicity machinery is not at all lagging behind. On the other hand, I would say that various steps have been taken for intensification of the programme. They include intensive programme, post-partum programme, commercial distribution bureaux, which is the highest in Calcutta, nutrition programme and immunisation of mothers and children and setting up of main centres and sub-centres required according to the pattern in the rural areas and providing other facilities for the rural population.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA : Family planning propaganda is carried on only in the cities and urban areas, and there is lack of propaganda in the labour areas and in rural areas. This is true of West Bengal also. So, will the Government consider speeding up their machinery in the rural areas and labour areas, particularly in West Bengal ?

SHRI A. K. KISKU : This suggestion will be borne in mind.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : The increase of 2.7 per cent in West Bengal is very high compared to all-India average which is only 2.4. Is it on account of the influx of refugees or is it on account of non-practice of family planning methods ?

SHRI A. K. KISKU : This refugee influx has nothing to do with it.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : There was refugees influx previously also.

SHRI A. K. KISKU : The total programme in different sectors of family planning in West Bengal is in full swing.

SHRI D. N. MAHATA : May I know whether there is any kind of booklet on family planning in Santhal language to be distributed among the tribal people ?

SHRI A. K. KISKU : So far as my knowledge goes, there is no such book published.

SHRI SHYAMANANDAN MISHRA : How does the expenditure on family planning in West Bengal compare with the expenditure in other States ? More particularly, I want the figure of central assistance given to West Bengal as compared to other States.

SHRI A. K. KISKU : I do not have the exact figures specifically for West Bengal. If I am given notice, I will surely supply the figure.

National Health Service Scheme

*1362. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of introducing a comprehensive National Health Service Scheme in the country has been considered by Government ; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU) : (a) There is no proposal, at present, to introduce a National Health Service Scheme on a country-wide basis.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN : May I know why Government is not considering such a scheme ?

SHRI A. K. KISKU : Health is primarily a State subject. But the main reason is, it is difficult to take up a nation-wide scheme because of shortage of funds and manpower.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN : Recently in one of his speeches, the President of India himself said there is need for taking up such a scheme. In advanced countries like Great Britain where the Government says that they are committed to socialism, they adopt such schemes. Considering the importance of this aspect that the rural population is not getting any medical attention for all practical purposes, will Government consider introducing such a scheme as early as possible ?

SHRI A. K. KISKU : We share the concern of the hon. member. But I may say there are a large number of primary health centres in each block and also sub-centres, where medical facilities are being provided. We know there are some centres where there are no doctors, but we are taking all steps so that doctors and medicine are available. At the moment we can say that rural people are being provided with doctors and medical facilities.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : In view of the minister's statement that one of the difficulties in the way of having a comprehensive national health scheme is that health is a State subject, may I know if in the Government's opinion, India being a Union of States is an obstacle in the way of having a national health service scheme, which is an indispensable part of the apparatus of Welfare State, if not a socialist State ? In view of that statement, I would like to have a clarification as to what Government intends to do about it.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS & HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT) : It is not merely a technical question of being a State subject. As my colleague has pointed out, it is a question of funds. The Government of India, through centrally sponsored schemes and specially earmarked grants, is trying to help, but there is a limit beyond which it cannot go. Recently, there has been a decision to extend the CGHS scheme to other places like Kanpur and Calcutta. There is also a pro-

posal, it is not yet finalised—to have pilot schemes for providing this kind of service to non-Government servants. Even in the CGHS, there is a provision whereby even non-Government servants living in that area can take advantage of it on the payment of a small fee. But on a country wide scale, it is not possible. I hope the hon. member will appreciate this difficulty.

Change in Visa regulations for Travel between Indian and Pakistan

*1365. **SHRI P. K. DEO :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have effected any changes in regard to visa regulations for travel between India and Pakistan ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof and the reasons for effecting changes in visa rules ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI P. K. DEO : In view of the large influx of refugees from East Bengal, when the entire border is thrown open I do not think there is any consistency between the question and answer and the realities.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary question.

SHRI K. P. DEO : Then how are the refugees being permitted to come in such large numbers ?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : They are not refugees ; they are freedom fighters.

SHRI P. K. DEO : They are refugees in this country.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : As far as the unfortunate refugees who are coming to India from Bangladesh are concerned, they fall into a separate category altogether. They are all unfortunate victims