

**Recommendations of working Group
on Population**

+

*1064. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :

SHRI A.R. BADRINARAYAN:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Planning Commission's Working Group on population has in its report urged priority for women education, health care and adult literacy ;

(b) if so, what are the other points made in the interim report;

(c) whether Government have considered the same ; and

(d) when the final decision for its implementation is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI
FAZLUR RAHMAN. (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Major recommendations of the interim report of the Working Group on Population Policy are given in the enclosed statement. The recommendations will be taken note of while finalising the Five Year Plan 1978-83.

Statement

Major Recommendations of the Interim Report of the Working Group on Population Policy.

1. Population policy should reflect the concern for the individuals' as well as the community's dignity, needs, aspirations, development and well being and emphasize not only demographic goals in terms of fertility rates, mortality rates, and distribution of population, but also employment and quality of life.

2. The success of the programme of population control will depend upon

(a) the involvement of the people and the various social economic and political institutions especially at the local level in the organization of the programme and

(b) on the successful implementation of the various programmes, of social and economic change, specially rural health, adult education, specially women's education, rural water supply, nutrition, programme, rural development programme etc.

We urge the speedy implementation of these suggestions and programmes which

make people participate and share in the fruits of development.

3. The recently enacted law regarding the minimum age at marriage should be enforced. There should be a massive educational programme and special literacy programmes for girls.

4. Necessary efforts should be made to bring down the infant mortality from the present level to below 60 per thousand by the end of this century.

5. We endorse the June 1977 policy statement that the programme of family welfare should be entirely voluntary.

6. We strongly recommend that the nation, commit itself to achieving the long term goal of Net Reproduction Rate of one by the year 1996 on an average and by the year 2001 for all the States. This implies that for given set of conditions of mortality and fertility, on an average, a woman will be replaced by just a one daughter and two child family will be the norm. In terms of birth and death rates this would mean 21 and 9 per thousand population respectively.

7. To reach the objective of NRR one, the percentage of eligible couples to be effectively protected by modern method of family planning should be around 60. This will involve a programme of protecting 84 million eligible couples by the year 1996.

8. Given the different levels of effective protection, the States should be grouped into three categories: Group A States where the level of protection for eligible couples is less than 15 per cent; Group B States where the level of protection is between 15-25 per cent, and Group C States where the level of protection is over 25 per cent. We recommend that each State be asked to accelerate during the next two decades or less its existing level of effective protection to the proposed level of 60 per cent of eligible couples.

9. Each State should be assisted by the Government of India in choosing its appropriate path which is politically, socially and administratively most suitable to it for achieving the goal of NRR one.

10. We estimate that the direct cost on effective protection of eligible couples until 1996 would be approximately Rs. 3000 crores at 1978 prices. The capital expenditure would be an additional Rs. 3000 crores bulk of which would need to be incurred during the next decade 1979-89.

11. Considering the level of family planning performance during the last two years we suggest a more realistic target of 30 per cent effective protection of eligible couples by the end of the present Plan viz. by March 1983, for the nation as a whole.

12. We emphasize the need for differential programme for the three groups of States and greater emphasis on spacing methods as against permanent methods, especially for the newly married couples entering the reproductive age. We feel that non-permanent methods are usually pathways to permanent ones.

13. The Panchayats, Voluntary agencies and other local groups and institutions with demonstrated performance should be involved as fully as possible in the implementation of the programme.

14. A consensus amongst the political parties about these goals would be useful in promoting the population control programme.

15. The entire health and family planning infrastructure should be in position by 1989, and steps should be immediately taken for that purpose.

16. The provision of family planning services should be promoted at the local level as much as possible through the para-medical staff without detracting from the crucial role of the medical practitioner.

17. While the long term programme of concentrating family planning services around men should not be underplayed, in the short run it should stress the involvement of women and the services required by them.

18. In view of the urgent need for building up of the infrastructure needed for provision of services and supplies, the family welfare programme may be continued as a Centrally sponsored scheme.

19. The staff under the Family Welfare Programme at the State level should be made permanent as per the rules of the State Governments; the Government of India should also contribute towards gratuity, pension etc. of such employees.

20. Prominence should be given to inter-personnel and group communication at the village level, bring about the necessary level of motivation.

21. The GHW scheme has enormous potential as it involves the community directly in the health and family welfare care. Until the scheme is on the ground, it should be continued as a fully Centrally sponsored scheme.

22. For low performance State, we recommend a special programme of creating immediately the health and family welfare infrastructure which should be specially funded by the Planning Commission.

23. Since no new technological breakthrough in the field of family planning are envisaged in the next five years, greater research effort should be made in the existing technologies to make them safer and more acceptable.

24. The research and data base of policy making should be improved. As a first step the SRS sample size should be enlarged and the quality of data improved.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Sir, I hope that the Minister will agree with me when I say that for the last two years, that is, in the first two years after the Janata Party came to power, this family planning programme has received a complete set back. It does not require any statistics to prove it. Even the Working Group of the Planning Commission, which had gone into this question, has confirmed it by its report. The Minister has also mentioned about this fact in his long statement. They have stated in their report: "Unless the family planning drive is given an immediate result-orientation, the country may have to face the worst ever population explosion in the coming years." I would like to know whether the present Government has any political will and whether they recognised that this is a national problem. If so, what is their policy and how are they going to combat this problem so that their policy can have some impact.

SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN: A Committee was constituted to find out the ways and means to control population. They have submitted an interim report and the Government will take a final decision after it has received the final report. But I can tell you one thing, this Government is not going to follow the policy of forced family planning. We have changed the name, now it is 'family welfare programmes'. The programme will be by persuasion, education, with the co-operation of non-official institutions, and other institutions. I would like Co-operation especially of the Members of Parliament. I hope that we will be able to overcome this problem.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: That was not my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is a broad one and the answer is a broader one.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: You must help us. My question was whether they realise the gravity of the situation. The way they are moving, a crisis is developing. What is their policy and how are they going to combat it? That is all I wanted to know.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): The policy is very clear. There is no question of going back on measures of population control. But my hon. friend forgets that it is they who have caused the set-back. If they had not done forced operations on people during the Emergency, there would not have been a set-back. But now the country is coming back and now people are coming up to support family planning programmes. What is being done is that we explain to every person in every family and impress on him the necessity of this programme and I am sure that once the message reaches him, this will have an immediate success. In some States, the success of voluntary birth control is noticeable already; as for example, in Gujarat.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: This sort of an approach is really hampering the cause of family planning.

MR. SPEAKER: Different view points, that cannot be helped.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: It has been proved by statisticians that we are going down. It is a dangerous problem.

MR. SPEAKER: That is your point. If you have any question, I can understand.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: About the second point, of course, the Minister has not mentioned in his statement. I have gone through the Report. They have said that the media they employ in the rural areas for the purpose have not proved successful. I do not know how they are going to reach all the people when illiteracy is about 72%. The printed materials and the cinematograph are not enough. What is their new approach? How are they going to reach the maximum number of people?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a wide policy question.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I have already replied to that.

SHRI O. V. ALGESAN: Even in States like Tamil Nadu, where the programme is being prosecuted with a certain amount of success, there are many malpractices and undesirable practices.

Old people are being operated upon, the same man is being operated upon twice and a certain amount of money is given and that is being shared in a particular manner between the doctor and the man who procures these people, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes, we refuse to forget things.

SHRI O. V. ALGESAN: Will the Government look into the matter or will it tell the State Governments to see that such malpractices do not enter into this very healthy programme and it is really prosecuted in a proper manner?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: The malpractices have been stopped altogether and there will be no such malpractices in future as far as this Government is concerned. That is all I can say.

PROF SAMAR GUHA: This problem of population control has created a new problem in the sense that the enlightened people, the educated people, the rich people, the middle-class people, the upper-class people, they are all resorting to some kind of population control measures. But in some areas, in the rural areas, basti areas and also among people who are known as backward and also people who practice polygamy, if statistics is collected, it will be found that the rate of growth of population in those sectors are much higher than the rate of growth of population in the urban sectors and other sector I have mentioned above.

I want to know from the Government whether they have identified the areas and sectors where there is differential rate of growth of population and if so, what steps are being taken to see that this differential rate of growth does not create an imbalance in the character of our people. What measures do Government want to take to see that the differences are eliminated?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: The matter is quite obvious. Population increases only among the poor people and backward people, not among the affluent. That is a fact and it is also a physiological phenomenon. Therefore, we have to approach the people, in their own interest, to see that they adopt these measures according to their liking, and we supply them with those measures. That is what we are doing. We are concentrating on this and we are taking the help of social organizations and of all those who are willing to work for the programme, particularly the doctors.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: I agree with the Hon. Prime Minister that it was the previous Government, particularly during the Emergency, which was responsible for all kinds of atrocities and distortions in this programme. Now, in view of the fact that the Minister has said that the Population Group's report on this particular matter will be incorporated into the final shape of the Sixth Five Year Plan, in terms of that, may I know specifically as to how this programme of women education, health care and adult literacy is being given priority in terms of two things—firstly, the allotment of funds, and secondly, a more sensible distribution of the allotted funds, so that the programme is implemented properly and monies do not go into the hands of what I may call professional types of agents who are interested in getting money from the Government as well as from the poor and ignorant people and not in implementing the policy of family planning?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: This is a problem of keeping vigilance over all these agencies and we are trying to do it. We are paying more attention also to the adult literacy programme through which we can explain to these people and convince them. That is how we are trying to do it, and we are doing it more through non-official agencies. It is not through agents that we are doing it but through non-official bodies which are looking after it. That is why we find that it has been taken up vigorously in Gujarat, where it has had more success; and that is how, we hope, it will be taken up in every State.

Export efforts for Electronic goods

*1065. **SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Electronics is reviewing the export efforts and taking steps to promote exports in electronic goods; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE: (PROF. SHER SINGH); (a) and (b). In May, 1978, the Government of India had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. G. K. Menon, then

Chairman, Electronics Commission & Secretary, Department of Electronics, to look into all aspects of Electronics Exports and make recommendations. The Committee submitted its report in October, 1978 and the report is now under examination by the Department of Electronics, Ministry of Commerce and other concerned agencies of Government.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know the recommendations of the Committee?

PROF. SHER SINGH: There are a number of recommendations. I can broadly state some five or six.

M.R. SPEAKER: Yes, only a few important ones.

PROF. SHER SINGH: Briefly I would say that one major recommendation is that the norms and procedures governing advance licences and other related facilities need to be made more simple and liberal to ensure that the targeted level of exports are fully reached. They have identified certain consumer electronic items for immediate build-up of exports in large volumes. In fact, there are other five or six main recommendations. One is that the radio equipment and telephone instruments offer a significant export opportunity and they need to be tapped. Another is that the production of electronic components has to be planned on a much larger scale than what is warranted by considerations of domestic consumption so as to provide the required components' base for sustained electronics export. The third one is: "The Committee expressed the need to have a single point clearance for all aspects of new projects, especially those relating to electronic components and large-export oriented equipment projects". There are so many other things.

* **MR. SPEAKER:** You can lay the report on the Table of the House.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Sir, electronic equipments are very important not only for export but for internal consumption also. Now, when will the Government take a decision on those recommendations?

PROF. SHER SINGH: As I said, these are under examination in the various Ministries, Department of Electronics, Commerce Ministry and we hope that an empowered Committee may be appointed in order to implement these recommendations.