

These are the major considerations for levying toll tax. And the moment the amount is recovered, it is stopped.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: With regard to the collection of toll tax from the vehicular traffic, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there are bridges situated at more than are place in close proximity, say within a short distance of 80 KM or 100 KM. Toll tax is being realised from each bridge. In view of the hardship arising out of collection of toll at more than one point within a short distance, will the Government consider giving some relaxation?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: As I said, it is the cost of the bridge which is to be recovered. I may inform the House that this was decided sometime in 1978. So, the cost at that time was Rs. 25 lakhs. This amount was reasonably well to be levied for a toll. Now the Government is considering a proposal that a bridge which costs more than Rs. 50 lakhs—because Rs. 25 lakhs is a very small amount for a bridge these days—for a toll. So, this is under consideration.

And what the hon. Member has pointed out regarding the metropolitan cities which come closer to the National Highway—we are preparing some plans where this facility could be given to have a smooth flow of traffic—that is also being considered. We will certainly solve this problem.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Due to lack of resources, the Government has not been able to undertake the work of several bridges and National Highways. I understand that several private sector companies have offered their help in this regard.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government has already considered such proposals from private sectors

in this regard. If so, how many? When are they going to be implemented? And what sectors they have taken up?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I had been talking about this thing quite often. In the House also I had mentioned that this is a very important sector for the national economy. We have to develop our road sector. Unfortunately, the Government could not cope up with the requirements. Today, we have round about 32,000 kms. of National Highways. As per the traffic requirement we need around 55,000 kms.

We had been, every time, offering participation of the private sector, but the response has not been very-very encouraging. Whosoever came forward from the Private Sector, they said that they should be helped through the banks to complete the projects. So, if the banks are to help the private sector, then it would be better if the Government themselves take up the work through their own agencies. Last time in one of the functions of the FICCI, one firm owned by Shri Goenka offered us that they will take up the work from Delhi to Kanpur. Kanpur to Calcutta is already a National Highway. So, this stretch has been given to them. They are doing a feasibility study and a viability study. No firm offer has come. We have been always requesting the private sector to participate and collect the money or collect the return by helping this sector.

Measures to Check Population Growth Rate

*1071. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK†:**
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

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

(a) whether the Family Planning Foun-

dation has voiced its serious concern over the constant birth rate over the last 10 years in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the suggestions made by the Foundation in this regard; and

(c) the details of fresh measures proposed to be taken to check the population growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTILAL VORA): (a) According to the Family Planning Foundation, its Government Board expressed concern over the stalling of the birth rate in spite of a steady increase in the number of acceptors, expansion of Family Welfare services infrastructure and tremendous increase in personnel and investment.

(b) and (c). According to the information from Family Planning Foundation, the seminar organised by the foundation in collaboration with Applied Population Research Trust, is yet to submit its final report on this issue.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Sir, the population of India has doubled in thirty years. It is a cause for deep concern and we must be alert about it.

The Family Planning Foundation has expressed serious concern over the failure of the Family Planning Programme and also about the birth rate.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what are the main factors responsible for the failure of this Family Planning Programme and whether the Government have identified those bottlenecks? If so, what are the steps taken to overcome the problems and for making the Family Planning Programme a success?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: The Report of the Family Planning Foundation is yet to come. But they have shown their serious concern over the constant birth rate. Now, we have taken up a programme. The National Health Policy has laid down the following demographic goals to be achieved by the year 2000 A.D. Birth Rate 21 per thousand, Death Rate 9, life expectancy 164, infant mortality rate below 60 per thousand and live birth and effective couple protection rate 60 per cent. People have to be educated, and this has to be properly publicized in every paper. Yesterday, hon. Members have discussed this in the House, and I have given all the information, in great detail. But we have to educate the people—the whole country. By that, we will be able to make this family planning programme a success.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: May I know from the hon. Minister what are the implementing and monitoring agencies to check up the birth rate, and also the names of States and Union Territories where birth rates have increased, in comparison with the national average?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: The implementing agencies are those of the State Governments. Government of India is giving 100% grant for the implementation of this programme. All the State Governments have been asked to implement it properly. Primary health centres, sub-centres and community health centres are there. They are implementing all this. Besides these, voluntary organizations are also helping in this programme.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: This has reference to yesterday's discussion, the first in the last 2 1/2 years. May I ask the hon. Minister to give his response to the proposal which I made yesterday, of allowing a Private Member's Bill here on Government time, because a Private Member's Bill does not go through otherwise? It is like going

through a lottery. But can a Private Member's Bill be given Government time, for discussion of incentives and disincentives? Will he agree to that?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: The hon. Member has suggested this yesterday when he was discussing at length this programme; and I have said that we will examine it.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India is making efforts to control the population growth by the Family Planning Scheme. We should present ideals before the people as our Prime Minister having two children has done. Whether following his idea..... (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Ram-raoji?... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: He belongs to the State Government while I am talking of the Central Government. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that he should get all the present Ministers examined and find out as to how many of them are following Family Planning norms. Before emphasising the need one should look as an ideal because one who smokes has no moral right to ask anyone to desist from smoking. All these things, therefore, should be got examined. Will you consider the number of the children and adherence to the family planning norms by the Member as a criteria for his induction into the cabinet in the next reshuffle?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It should be implemented at state level also.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Prime Minister has presented an ideal. So far as State Governments are concerned, I do not want to be dragged in to

any controversy regarding issues to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal. How this National Programme can be made a success should be the concern of all of us. Our population, which is 79 crores, now may explode to the extent of 100 crores by the year 2000 and may cross the limit of 125 crores by 2005 if our birth rate is not controlled, which is 32.4 per thousands at present. By then India would turn to be a country, which has the largest population in the world. So far as the suggestion of the hon. Member regarding taking into consideration the number of the children of the Member while inducting him into the Cabinet is concerned, I may tell you that it is the concern of the Prime Minister. He is deeply concerned about it and wants to see the Family Planning Programme a success. He is of the view that if our efforts with the cooperation of all the political parties, to control the population growth do not succeed, no number of new medical colleges, be it 106 or 1000, could be sufficient. Everything will go short.

The suggestion given by the hon. Member is good. But I would also advise him to look around him to note the family size of his colleagues.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: I will take care of myself and you look to yourself.

MR. SPEAKER: You must know that it is the darkest under the lamp.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I happened to visit the house of Shri Tulsiram, his son No I offered me a cup of tea.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: You are far from the truth.

MR. SPEAKER: I recommend your name. He should be appointed as an adviser.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: I am proud of it some other chaps call me their father.

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO: The hon. Minister need not feel shy in enquiring into the number of children of the various representatives, no matter whether they are Chief Ministers or Members of Parliament or the Ministers of the Government of India. No amount of discussion in this House or a great oratory on the platform will help solving this problem. Let the leaders of the representatives first implement that scheme. Then the people will automatically realise about it.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: The time has passed. Nothing can be done now.

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Let him take a stand and make out a list how many people have got how many children so that they will feel guilty and insulting—if it is published—and the rest of the people will follow suit.

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing to reply.

Eye Polymer Lens

*1073. DR. G. VJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new eye polymer lens has been developed by Soviet Scientists as reported in the Financial Express dated 27 January 1988; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether similar technology is proposed to be developed or imported in India; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the annual requirement of such lenses indicating cost involved and how this demand is being met at present in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTILAL VORA): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The Government is aware of the news items published in Financial Express of 27th January, 1988.

Artificial lenses are used in the eyes as a part of treatment for cataract surgery. New silicon material has been developed in U.S.S.R., U.S.A. and in Europe and is being tested for Intra Ocular Lens implantation.

This technology has not been developed in India or imported so far.

Nearly one million cataract operations are performed in the country every year. Under the existing conditions in our country Intra-Ocular Lens implantation can be taken up for selected individuals who need very high quality vision for their specific jobs and in selected centres only. The cost of lens varies from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 3000/-. At present the I.O.L. are mostly imported either by individuals or agencies or through donations.

DR. G. VJAYA RAMA RAO: This new artificial polymer lens, which is the latest one, is being invented in USSR and USA. It improves vision as well we gives protection to the retina of the eye. The incidence of cataract is more in India than USSR and USA. For the patients who undergo an operation for cataract—later on they require these lenses for implantation in their eyes—in India we require for them this type of Intra-Ocular artificial lenses. Is there any proposal