

[28 April, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) Although there is a proposal to start another dispensary at Sarita Vihar yet due to financial constraints and non- implementation of SIU Report, it is not feasible to open any new dispensary at present.

Incentives and Disincentives Under New Population Policy

3718. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

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

(a) whether in order to bring pressure to bear on the State-wise high population growth, Government have decided not to increase the number of representatives of Legislative and parliamentary constituencies for the next 25 years by way of delimitation of constituencies; and

(b) if so, what other incentives and disincentives are contemplated under the New Population Policy in the next century to bring about early stabilization of population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (b) The National Population Policy, 2000 has recommended that the 42nd Constitution Amendment, which freezes the number of seats to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, till 2001 (based on the 1971 Census), be extended upto 2026, as a motivational measures, in order to enable the State Government to pursue fearlessly the agenda for population stabilisation contained in the NPP, 2000.

The Policy envisages a number of promotional and motivational measures like reward to Panchayats and Zila Parishads, continuation of the Balika Samridhi Yojana, Maternity Benefit Scheme, Health Insurance Plan, reward to couple below the poverty line, etc.

Infant Mortality Rate

3719. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that infant mortality rate scenario is grim in India, as reported in the Times of India during second week of March, 2000; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the nutritional status of the mother as well as child care, to improve the infant mortality rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) With the implementation of Universal Immunization Programme and the Oral Rehydration Therapy Programme, the infant mortality rate (IMR) has come down from 104 in 1985 to 72 in 1998. During the last four years, however, the infant mortality rate has remained in the range of 74 to 72. Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme launched in 1997, a number of interventions are being implemented for improving the health and nutrition status of mothers and children. For the mothers interventions include antenatal and post-natal check-up, improving safe delivery practices, prophylaxis and treatment of maternal anemia, immunization against tetanus and promotion of birth spacing. The interventions being implemented for children include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of death due to diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections, prophylaxis against Vitamin A deficiency blindness and nutritional anemia. Essential Newborn Care has been included for reduction of deaths during the neonatal period.

Special efforts for improving implementation of the programme are being planned in identified districts in 16 States of the country with the help UNICEF. A new project for strengthening of the immunization programme with World Bank assistance has also been finalized.

A National Nutritional Policy has been formulated in 1993 and the national plan of action on nutrition is being implemented through different departments of Government of India including the Integrated Child Development Services of the Department of Family Welfare.

Apart from health related factors, illiteracy, poverty and general economic and social development of the people have a direct bearing on the infant mortality rate. To tackle these, programmes such as Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Indira Awas Yojana and Adult Literacy Programme are being implemented by different departments and agencies of Government of India.