

(c) details of efforts made to make the programme more effective in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The Crude Birth Rate has dropped from 36.9 per thousand population in 1971 to 28.3 in 1995 as per the estimates of the Sample Registration System (SRS).

(b) The States of Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh continue to have birth rates in excess of 32 per thousand population as per the estimates of the SRS for 1995. The Birth Rate in the State of Orissa (27.7) is below the national level of 28.3, but the Infant Mortality Rate (103 per thousand live births) is much higher than the National level of 74.

(c) Providing additional inputs to States/Districts with adverse socio-demographic indicators is an accepted policy of the Family Welfare Programme.

Defaulters of Customs Duty

1921. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several private companies and many Government undertakings are among the defaulters in customs duty transaction; and

(b) if so, the details of these companies and Government undertakings and what legal action is being taken by Government to prevent such practice?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the names of companies can be furnished if the time period for which the information is sought is available. However, the Government has taken legal steps to prevent the tendency on the part of importers to delay the payment of customs duty by enacting appropriate legislation. Section 28AA of the Customs

Act, 1942 which has been enacted in Finance Act, 1995 provides for imposition of interest @ 20% on the amount, the payment of which is delayed by the importer. In addition, Section 142(1) (C) (ii) has been introduced by Finance Act, 1995, enabling the officers of the Department to distrain any movable or immovable property belonging to the said importer and cause the said property to be sold and appropriate the sale proceeds towards the sums due to the Government.

Formulation of Media Policy

1922. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have formulated any media policy;

(b) if so, the main salient features thereof and whether the same is to be placed on the Table of House during the current Session; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) At present, the media policy has not been codified. However, different media units of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting function under various codes/regulations/ guidelines as specified from time to time.

Paucity of funds for opening CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi

1923. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS is facing paucity of funds for the last ten years for opening of CGHS Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic dispensaries in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the development of Ayurvedic