

(c) whether there are nearly two million potential AIDS carriers in the country; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The Government has seen the news item. (b) to (d) Surveillance for detecting HIV infection among groups practising at risk behaviour was initiated in October, 85. As of 1st February, 1992, 6683 persons practising at risk behaviour were found to be positive, out of a total number of 12,73,829 persons screened. This indicates a sero positivity rate of 5.25 per 1000 amongst groups practising at risk behaviour. There are no reliable estimates regarding the prevalence of HIV infection in general population.

The National AIDS Control Programme was started from 1987 with emphasis on Blood safety and organising surveillance throughout the country.

With a view to preventing spread of HIV infection in the country, a comprehensive project was formulated and posed to the World Bank for financial assistance. The project would involve an outlay of Rs. 229.5 crores, and would be implemented for five years beginning from 1st April, 1992. Negotiations have been concluded with the World Bank and an assistance of Rs. 270 crores is expected to be available from international Development Association (a Soft Loan Affiliate of World Bank for financing the project. Under the project, the following areas will be strengthened:—

- Programme Management
- Surveillance
- Blood Safety
- Information, Education and Communication
- Control of sexually transmitted diseases
- Condom promotion
- Cess management.

Manufacture of Chocolates

989. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some leading brands of Chocolates manufactured in the country contain a carcinomated to have come down to the level of than maximum permissible limit;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) Environmental Research Laboratory, Lucknow, which is a small private laboratory, has screened a few samples of chocolates and reported that they show higher nickel content in chocolates. However, the result of samples of chocolate analysed at the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, a permanent research centre under the Indian Council of Medical Research have been found to be in agreement with values reported from Denmark i.e. with a mean figure of 1.26 mg/kg. Latest report of WHO has mentioned that there is lack of evidence of a carcinogenic risk from oral exposure of nickel. In fact, nickel has been shown as an essential trace metal in some plants and bacterial enzymes. Based on this information, the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, has opined that there is no need to lay down any maximum limit of nickel in chocolate.

Infant mortality rates

990. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mortality rate among the children in the country has gone down in the last few years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the birth rate has also gone down during the same period; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d) Registrar General of India provide estimates of Crude Birth Rate and Infant Mortality Rates through their Sample

Registration System. According to these estimates, there has been a consistent decline in both Infant Mortality Rate and Crude Birth Rate over the last few years. The Infant Mortality Rate which was estimated to be 94 per thousand live births in 1988 is estimated to have declined to 90 per thousand live births in 1990. Similarly, the Crude Birth Rate which was estimated to have come down to the level of 29.9 per thousand population in 1990.

State-wise details for the last three years are given in Statement-I and Statement-II.

Statement-I

Estimated Infant Mortality rate for major states:

1988, 1989 and 1990

(Sample registration system)

State	Infant Mortality rate		
	1988	1989	1990
Andhra Pradesh	83	81	70
Assam	99	91	77
Bihar	97	91	75
Gujarat	90	86	72
Haryana	90	82	69
Himachal Pradesh	80	74	68
Jammu and Kashmir	71	69	70
Karnataka	74	80	71
Kerala	28	22	17
Madhya Pradesh	121	117	111
Maharashtra	68	59	58
Orissa	122	122	123
Punjab	62	67	66
Rajasthan	103	96	83
Tamil Nadu	74	68	67
Uttar Pradesh	124	118	98
West Bengal	69	77	63
INDIA	94	91	80

NOTE 1990 provisional figures

Statement-II**SAMPLE REGISTRATION SYSTEM****Estimated Annual Birth Rates: 1988, 1989, 1990**

(Rates based on SRS Data of continuous enumeration and six-monthly crores check Survey)

State Union Territory	Birth Rate		
	1988	1989	1990
1. Andhra Pradesh	27.4	25.9	25.6
2. Arunachal Pradesh	40.0	35.6	29.7
3. Assam	32.0	29.4	27.5
4. Bihar	37.3	34.3	32.9
5. Goa	17.7	15.7	15.5
6. Gujarat	29.5	28.7	29.5
7. Haryana	33.8	35.2	31.8
8. Himachal Pradesh	32.2	27.7	27.0
9. Jammu & Kashmir	33.1	30.1	31.4
10. Karnataka	28.7	28.0	27.8
11. Kerala	20.3	20.3	19.0
12. Madhya Pradesh	37.0	35.5	36.9
13. Maharashtra	29.4	28.5	27.5
14. Meghalaya	36.4	31.3	31.8
15. Nagaland	22.3	19.7	16.2
16. Orissa	31.9	30.5	29.9
17. Punjab	28.5	20.3	27.6
18. Rajasthan	33.3	34.2	33.1
19. Sikkim	33.8	31.4	26.4
20. Tamil Nadu	22.7	23.1	22.4
21. Tripura	26.6	25.7	24.4
22. Uttar Pradesh	37.1	37.0	35.7
23. West Bengal	28.4	27.2	27.3
24. A&N Island	22.1	20.5	21.0
25. Chandigarh	22.4	22.5	27.7
26. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38.3	35.6	35.9
27. Daman & Diu	28.1	27.9	27.3
28. Delhi	28.6	27.2	22.8
29. Lakshadweep	25.5	28.8	25.6
30. Pondicherry	22.5	21.1	19.9
31. Manipur	25.8	22.8	21.0
INDIA	31.5	30.6	29.1