

Mal-practices in Family Welfare Programmes

*82. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the unabated population explosion in India would pose a formidable challenge to India's self-sufficiency in food, to welfare as well as to the environment;

(b) if so, what effective steps are proposed to be taken to contain this formidable growth in population ;

(c) whether Government are aware of the mal-practices such as sterilising minor, aged and invalid persons being resorted to by the family welfare centres in order to magnify statistical figures and to gain monetary benefits; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking to curb these mal-practices ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTHAY) : (a) Yes Sir. The Government are fully aware of the seriousness of population problem in all its dimensions.

(b) to (d) To keep the population growth in the country within the manageable limits, a well defined strategy has been evolved which lays emphasis on improving quality of health services, strengthening health infrastructure, enhancing child survival rates through Universal Immunisation Programme, intensifying population education, enhancing community participation, adopting improved communication approaches and involving voluntary organisations. Besides, schemes of reinforcement of training and retraining of personnel at the grass-root level, establishing and strengthening linkages with related development pro-

grammes like female literacy and improvement of women's status and adoption of area intensive approach are being implemented and will be further strengthened.

2. Complaints regarding mal-practices in sterilisation cases as and when received are referred to the State Governments for taking appropriate remedial action. The sample field evaluation studies commissioned by the Central Government reveal that the percentage of ineligible sterilisation cases had gone down from 2.0 in 1986-87 to 1.0 in 1987-88 to around 0.6 in 1988-89. No confirmed nexus between these cases and the desire to gain monetary benefits has been so far established.

SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the reply is not as I expected. The problem is not so simple as it is apparent. The magnitude and gravity of the problem is such that not only the economic but even the social conditions are threatened. During the fifty years, not only the the population has exploded but even the growth rate has gone up from 11 per cent to 25 per cent in spite of all our efforts. If it is allowed to drift on like this our population will surpass that of China. We will become number one in the whole world. Unless we take more stringent measures, we cannot attain the desired end. The bureaucratic approach is not enough, because the solution involves psychological change. The rural masses, especially women ..(Interruptions)

I will come to the question. It needs so much explanation. The rural ladies are to be educated. Mass education through voluntary organizations and not through bureaucracy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Come to the question.

SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Yes, Sir. The bureaucratic approach is just transmitting

the target from one level to another level. Ultimately, the feed-back is quantitative improvement in statistics, and not qualitative.

I want to know from the Minister whether the Government will come forward to promote voluntary organisations and depend more on voluntary organisations on educating the masses in this regard. Number two, now we are having so many methods such as administration of oral contraceptives, traditional safe period method, vasectomy, tubectomy and also laparoscopic sterilisation. Is there any other simple and novel method which can be followed by the rural ladies and help them to come out from their shyness? These are the two questions.

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY: I entirely agree with the hon. Member that the problem is very serious and as the hon. Member has suggested more efforts should be made to depend upon voluntary organisations because only through such education we can tackle this problem. Therefore I entirely agree with the Hon'ble Member that we should depend more and more on voluntary organisations. About the other things that the hon. Member wants, so far as...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether there is any novel method.

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY: Sir, all these problems will be discussed with the Planning Commission and we will certainly take into account the opinion of the hon. Member and any suggestions that may come from Members.

SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Simply saying that they will encourage voluntary organisations, Mr. Chairman, is not enough, because..

MR. CHAIRMAN: No arguments. It is a question.

SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: My question is, will the Government come forward with specific action plan to promote voluntary organizations in this regard?

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY: As I have already stated, we will certainly take such steps.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am afraid the hon. Minister has shown a lack of proper appreciation of the problem that he has at hand. He has said that it is very serious and that is all. Sir, I am in support of my hon. friend who has raised this very vital question because the problem should be tackled on a war footing. It is not a question that has to be taken on a bureaucratic level or on party basis or anything like that as he has said. It is a matter which should be treated as a matter of life and death for our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He agrees with you. Now put your question.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: The point is that he has not shown any inclination to understand the gravity of the situation and that is why I want to give this introduction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said in so many words that he appreciates the gravity of the situation. He is conscious of it and he is going to take all possible steps.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: The steps that have been enumerated by him are not sufficient to my mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given a long answer.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether a survey has been carried out by his Ministry to find out the amount of money that we should be spending on this programme as a crash programme which will mean a saving because of our having less population. I would like to know whether any survey about the *per capita* saving in the growth rate and so on has been carried out and whether sufficient amount is available to his Ministry. I am in support of giving the maximum funds to his Ministry in order to get this job done. This is my first question.

Part (b) of my question is this. It is basically a matter of persuasion—to persuade the people to see the gravity of the situation and to do something about it or rather not to do something about it so that less children are born. I would like to know whether in the matter of publicity he is going to employ only the traditional methods that have been used or is he going to use all the novel methods or the modern methods for getting it down to the people. As my hon. friend said, it is a matter of getting the shyness out of the people in the village. What specifically is he doing about that?

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY: As the hon. Member has asked, the Department has not undertaken a survey to determine the amount of money that will be necessary for tackling this problem in the long run. So it is difficult for me to answer that off hand. If notice is given, I will certainly give a reply. About the other aspect of the question as to whether the Government is trying to take all modern methods, I may say that we have applied, these modern methods to this problem so as to achieve success in this regard. We will certainly take recourse to such methods. There is no doubt about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know about the novel methods of

publicity. His question is about publicity.

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY: Sir, we are having enough publicity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know about new methods.

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY: Sir, if the hon. Member suggests some more novel ways, we will consider it.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Sir, the growth rate is going up. That is the point. What new methods or new techniques is he going to use? Sir, every body uses new methods of publicity for elections. The point is as to whether new methods as in the elections are going to be employed for this job.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't mix elections with this.

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY : If the hon. Member gives some suggestions, we will certainly consider them.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA : I would be happy to send a long list of suggestions to the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly send your suggestions.

SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN : Leaders of all the parties should be involved in this.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Does the Government propose to encourage family planning by a simple, sure and cheap technique of adopting celibacy?

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY : Sir, that has to be considered. (Interruptions),

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : Sir, the hon. Minister was pleased to say that no nexus has been established between the mis-utilisation of the funds and any eligible couples who are being sterilized. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the basis on which this inference has been drawn by the Government because everybody knows very well that there is terrible amount of misutilisation of funds. Secondly, the point on which I would like to have information is that recently the World Bank Chairman visited this country and one of the issues on which the World Bank had agreed was that if literacy among the women is increased, it will definitely lead to less rate of population. Was this issue taken up with him? Thirdly, I would like to know as to what is the latest position about the rate of growth of population.

**SHRI NILAMANI ROUT-
RAY :** Sir, the long-term goal to be achieved is net reproduction of unity by 2000 A.D.

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWA-
MY :** That is not what he asked.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : Let him complete. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is very simple. He says that he knows that money given is misutilised. He has been a Chief Minister of a major State of India. So, he says that sometimes it is misutilised. Do you know it? And if you know it, will you try to stop it? Secondly, he wants to know about the World Bank report.

**SHRI NILAMANI ROUT-
RAY :** Sir, whenever an instance of malpractice is brought to the notice of this Ministry, we will immediately contact the State Government, and our counterpart in the State Government, that is the Health Department of the State to

enquire into it. And it is on their report that we say that no relation has been established between them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : And the World Bank team has come....

**SHRI NILAMANI ROUT-
RAY :** That observation of the World Bank is certainly to be appreciated by the Government of India, and we will certainly take note of the advice tendered by the World Bank team.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The third supplementary was (*Interruptions*) Just a minute. What is the relation between the growth of literacy amongst women and the fall of birth-rate?

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWA-
MY :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, he said that the Government of India will act according to the wishes and desire of the World Bank. This is what he said. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI NILAMANI ROUT-
RAY :** That is not my intention...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He was telling about the suggestions...

**SHRI NILAMANI ROUT-
RAY :** We will consider certain suggestion....

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWA-
MY :** He said that the Government will act according to the wishes of the World Bank. This is what we have been saying all this time... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. You see everything in the context it comes. The question is about literacy of women.

**SHRI NILAMANI ROUT-
RAY :** Sir, we are laying great emphasis on education of women

and literacy so as to educate about this problem to the masses.

श्री पवन कुमार बांसल : एजुकेशन को तो यह खर्च करने पर लगे हुए हैं और यह कह रहे हैं कि एजुकेशन पर जोर दे रहे हैं।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, I want to know from you whether the House has to be wasting so much time Chair explaining to the Minister. (*Interruptions*) On that day also, you were explaining to the Minister on the onions. Are you a teacher here or a Chairman, Sir? Who are you, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN : When both of you refuse to understand each other, I come in.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, the Minister must be knowledgeable. It is not the Chairman's job to explain to the Minister. (*Interruptions*) We are wasting our time Sir, the Minister does not know the reply. (*Interruptions*). Sir, they must be very careful. You must ask the Minister and the Government to see that the Minister is well prepared with the answers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is very well prepared.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : Sir, I did not get the reply to my last question i.e., the latest information about the rate of growth of population.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the rate of growth of population now? (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI NILAMANI ROUT-
RAY :** The rate of growth is 2.1 per cent.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, why don't you ask Mr. Upendra to help him? (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI NILAMANI ROUT-
RAY :** Sir, the latest information is 2.4 per cent.

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWA-
MY :** Is it 2.4 or 2.04 per cent?

**SHRI NILAMANI ROUT-
RAY :** It is 2.04 per cent.

**SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHAN-
DRAN :** He said 2.04 per cent. Is it annual growth rate?

AN HON. MEMBER : He does not know. Secretariat has given the information and he has read it.

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN
SWAMY :** Sir, which period is he talking about? Last ten years, twenty years or hundred years?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Or is it last 100 days?

**SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATA-
RAJAN :** We will ask the officers directly the answer. He does not know. What is the use of having such Ministers?

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN
SWAMY :** We want to know the rate of growth pertains to which period. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : What is going on?

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN
SWAMY :** Is it for the last 100 years? The Government should be careful. Sir, I have taught economics for the last ten years. When he says 2.4 per cent, he must prescribe the period also. Is it last one year, two years, ten years or hundred years?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Or 100 days? (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Ajit P. K. Jogi.

श्री अजीत जोगी : मान्यवर, शासन बारम्बार यह कहता है कि समस्या गंभीर है और इस को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता दी जा रही है। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सच है कि परिवार कल्याण के कामों के लिए बजट में अभी तक किसी भी वर्ष एक प्रतिशत से अधिक राशि खर्च नहीं की गयी है? अगर हम उसे सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता दे रहे हैं और इतनी गंभीर समस्या मान रहे हैं तो क्या एक प्रतिशत की राशि शासन पर्याप्त मानता है? मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि जिस तरह से अभी तक परिवार कल्याण कार्यक्रम पारम्परिक साधनों को अपनाते हुए चलाया गया है क्या उसमें परिवर्तन कर आदिवासी अंचलों में जिस प्रकार पारम्परिक रूप से परिवार कल्याण के लिए जड़-बूटियों और दूसरे साधनों का प्रयोग किया जाता है, क्या उस पर कोई अनसंधान किया गया है और उन्हें फैलाने के कोई उपाय भी किए जा रहे हैं?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is talking about the *adivasis*. Will you find out about them and carry on research in that regard? This is the question. You say 'Yes'. (Interruptions) He comes from Orissa. He knows about the tribal areas. He had been the Chief Minister of that State also. (Interruptions).

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY : Sir, in tribal areas... (Interruptions) we are laying stress on education. (Interruptions)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, on a point of order. It is highly irregular for you to suggest the answer to him. It is on record. Please take it off the record. It will create a very bad impression. (Interruptions) This is not a National Front Government. This is a National Flop Government.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, under which rule are you authorised to educate the Minister? You are not. You have only to see that

the House works properly. You do not come in otherwise. Let them reply or let them not reply. You should not do it. (Interruptions).

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI : Sir, you are putting the answer in his mouth. (Interruptions)

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY : Sir, to control the rising population, the Government is determined to take various steps. Specially, we are laying stress on education.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is talking about the *adivasis*.

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY : In the tribal areas also, we are laying special stress on educating the people.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI : No. That was not my question. (Interruptions) माननीय यह मेरा प्रश्न नहीं था।

श्री सभापति : मैंने आपका प्रश्न तीन बार कह दिया। बात खतम हो गई।

Question No. 83 (Interruptions)

Enquiry into the death due to AIDS of a diplomat from Zimbabwe

*83. **SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :** †
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV :

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

(a) whether it's a fact that a diplomat from Zimbabwe who died in AIIMS recently has been tested HIV positive ;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mohinder Singh Lather.