

4. Carbon monoxide has been impugned as a harmful constituent of cigarette smoke. There is no evidence available, however, that permits a determination of changes in the risk of diseases due to variations in carbon monoxide levels.

5. Smokers may increase the number of cigarettes they smoke and inhale more deeply when they switch to lower yield cigarettes. Compensatory behaviour may negate any advantage of the lower yield product or even increase the health risk.

6. The tar and nicotine yields obtained by present testing methods do not correspond to the dosages that the individual smokers receive in some cases they may seriously underestimate these dosages.

7. A final question is unresolved, whether the new cigarettes being produced today introduce new risks through their design, filtering mechanisms, tobacco ingredients or additives. The chief concern is additives. The Public Health Service has been unable to assess the relative risks of cigarette additives because information was not available from manufacturers as to what these additives are.

Birth rate

466. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the birth rate in India during the last year and that during the current year;

(b) how does this birth rate compare with the economic growth rate of the country;

(c) whether Government propose to adopt some new measures to control the present growth of population in our country: I

(d) whether Government are contemplating to make family planning compulsory; and

(e) whether there is any proposal for an all political parties meeting to be convened to discuss this national issue?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The annual estimates of Birth rate are provided by the Sample Registration System (SRS) of Registrar General of India. The estimate of birth rate for the year 1983, which is the latest available, is 33.7 per 1000 population.

(b) These two indices are not comparable. However, the annual economic growth rate during the Sixth Five Year Plan period has remained higher than the natural growth rate of the population.

(c) An Action plan has been formulated by the Ministry to control population growth in the country. The major elements of the Action plan are increased Community participation, improved communication strategy, provision of suitable incentives, improving programme management and appropriate research and evaluation.

(d) and (e) No such measures are under consideration.

C.C.H.S. Hospital at Calcutta

467. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REEDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up C.C.H.S hospital for Central Government staff in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the likely expenditure-

(c) by when it is likely to be set up;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up such a hospital at Hyderabad also; and