

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 11th August, 1985/ 16
 Sravana, 1907 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the Clock,
 Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

Family Planning Programme in the country

•221. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, be pleased to state:

- (a) what was the target of family-planning programme during 1984-85;
- (b) what were the targets of family planning programme of different States and Union Territories during 1984-85;
- (c) what is the extent to which these targets were fulfilled, State-wise;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the populous States are lagging behind in achieving those targets; and
- (e) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Performance under the Family Welfare Programme depends on a number of factors including prevalent socio-economic conditions, the outreach of the delivery system, efforts made in demand generation and the efficiency of the programme management. Depending on such factors, programme performance varies from State to State.

Targets and achievements for 1984-85 of Family Planning methods, State-wise and All India are given in the Annexure [See Appendix CXXXV Annexure No. 35

793 RS—1.

SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Sir population problem is a very big problem in our country. So, to check the growth of population, family planning is a vital task on our people's part. But from the statement of the Minister it is revealed that most of the targets are not fulfilled whether it is on an all-India level or State level. What is the reason for it? Most of the people of our country, specially people of slum and rural areas are not so conscious about the necessity of family planning because majority of them are illiterate and below the poverty-line. About 75 per cent of the people of our country are without education. So, it is natural that they are not conscious about the danger of the population problem. So, may I know from the hon. Minister as to how and when the educational needs of the slum and rural people are going to be met to make them conscious about the population problem and the necessity of family planning programme. Secondly

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can put a second supplementary later.

SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: All right, Sir.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Sir, as the hon. Member has said, the most necessary thing for this programme is education. And it is not only the Health Ministry which could do something in this but also all the Ministries like Education, Rural Development and Social Welfare. And most welcome is the participation of the people as well as the participation of the representatives of the public. So, we are trying our best to educate the people, to motivate the people because so many problems are there. Illiteracy is there; social evils are there, early marriages are there. So, these are the problems which are the hurdles in this programme. But we have achieved the targets. It is not so low. But, in

different States, in different methods, they have done something.

SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister, on the occasion of the Second National Conference of Parliamentarian on Population Problem suggested to use the m&S3 media to educate the people about family planning. He also said that the television can be used for this purpose. He also advised to make good films on this programme. So, may I know from the Minister whether the Government has any plan to implement his suggestions and if so, how and when?

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Sir, we are using the multi-media for all these programmes. And a well-defined strategy has been adopted to promote the family welfare programme through intensified efforts to spread awareness, information through imaginative use of multi-media, interpersonal communication strategy, provision of service and supplies as close to the doorsteps of the acceptors as possible, development of facilities for rapid increase in literacy, population education to the youth in schools and colleges as well as those out of schools, assistance and support of the elected representatives of the people and proper linkages with all other Ministries, as I have said. So we are trying our best. As you know, 75 per cent of the population is under television coverage and it is a very strong media to propagate these programmes.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: From the answer of the hon. Minister it is very clear that States like Maharashtra and Haryana have achieved the target that had been given to the States with regard to family planning. Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are also populous States but they could not achieve the target. I would like to ask whether in cases of States which have achieved the target—and some have actually exceeded the target—there is any

scheme under consideration of the Government of India to give any special incentives by allocation of more funds for the development of the States and in case of those States which have lagged behind, there is any scheme to bring such States on par with others.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: We can transfer population from other States.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: We are giving many incentives to the acceptors but as the hon. Member has asked, we have a scheme of giving some awards to the States which are doing well.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Since family planning is a must in a country like ours and the Government has been trying for it for quite a long time, may I know from the hon. Minister as to what percentage of population has been covered by family planning programme by now and to what extent, these facilities have reached the people. Secondly I want to know which group of population, whether the upper strata or the middle strata or the lower strata the rural poor, are responding to the family planning programme, most and which group is most averse and why.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: It is but obvious that educated people are responding to this programme and as the hon. Member knows, about 80 per cent of the population is in rural areas. We are trying to expand our activities in the rural areas not only for the family planning programme but for the MCH programme—mother and child health care programme. This year it has been an all-time record and I can give you the figure that 15.9 million acceptors were involved during 1984-85; last year the figure was 14.9 million. It shows that gradually people are coming forward and willingly accepting the small family norms.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Some months ago the Health Minister asked for suggestions from Members of Parliament on how to improve the Performance of the family planning programme, and I have written to her to suggest introduction of a legislation to disenfranchise parents of more than 2 children and to ban holding of any elective Post from that of a Panchayat to the President, for the defaulters i think this is a painless measure which would not penalise the innocent offspring of people who are not conscious of their social responsibility and also it would be an example from people like us that we do not only preach but we also practice. Now, a Private Member's Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha. I would like to know from the Health Minister whether she is considering to adopt this Bill as a Government measure and if so, when, and let her not pass it off as a Private Member's Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion for action

SHRI ALADI ARUNA ALIAS V. ARUNACHALAM: Tamil Nadu is one of the States where family planning programme has been successfully implemented. Unfortunately, due to proper implementation of the family planning programme, there is a fall in Lok Sabha membership, from 41 to 39. Will the Government come forward to protect the strength of Lok Sabha Members which Tamil Nadu is entitled to?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not relevant.-

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, this family planning programme has been on the agenda of the Government, i think, for more than two decades and almost every year we get reports of good performance, good achievements, taking the country as a whole. But, population goes on increasing. Between 1971 and 1981 also, population has registered an increase" and the rate is not-much-lower than that of the previous decade. In view

of the continuous increase in population, will the hon. Minister consider the desirability of instituting an enquiry into the family planning programme to see how far this has been implemented in actual practice or the implementation is only on paper?

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: I agree with the hon. Member that population is increasing. During the pre-Independence period, we had a very little margin between death rate and birth rate. After Independence, we expanded the health facilities to the rural areas, to the whole country. That is why, death rate has declined sharply. But unfortunately, growth rate has been increasing. We have been able to arrest the death rate with the expansion of health facilities. But in regard to reducing the growth rate, without the participation of the people, without the co-operation of the young couples, we cannot do this. We have motivated and educated them to come under this fold so that they can adopt the method which suits them.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: This-is-some answer.

श्री शान्ति त्वागी : हमारे देश में सभा-
बड़े शहरों में बहुत सी वालंटरी ऑर्गेनाइ-
जेशन काम करती है, बहुत सी मैडिकल
एसोसिएशन काम कर रही हैं और फेमिली
प्लानिंग के कार्यक्रम को आगे बढ़ाना
चाहती है और यह गिवर भी लगा रहें
हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता
हूँ कि क्या इस काम में इन एसोसिएशन
को किसी प्रकार की आर्थिक सहायता
सरकार दे रही है ? यदि नहीं, तो क्या
इस पर विचार करेगी ?

श्रीमती मोहसिना किदवाई : सभापति जी
जहाँ तक माननीय मेम्बर ने जो सवाल
किया है वह बहुत अच्छा सवाल किया है।
वालंटरी ऑर्गेनाइजेशन का पार्टिसिपेशन
इसमें है और बहुत सी वालंटरी ऑर्गे-
नाइजेशन का रही है। सरकार की तरफ
से उनको सहायता दी जाती है और स्टेट

गवर्नमेंट्स भी सहायता करती है और हम उसके ऊपर और ज्यादा जोर दे रहे हैं ताकि वालंटरी अग्रेनाइजेशन ज्यादा से ज्यादा इस काम को उठाये। जैसा कि हमारी लेट प्राइम मिनिस्टर श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी ने कहा था कि आवांम का प्रोग्राम है, आवांम के लिये है और आवांम को ही इसमें करना है, इसलिये सरकार की तरफ से न चला कर यह आवांम का ही प्रोग्राम हो इसलिये वालंटरी अग्रेनाइजेशन का और जो हमारे अपोजिशन लीडर्स है इसमें इनका आना और हिस्सा लेना जरूरी है। इसलिये कोअपरेटिव्स और जिला परिषद का इन्वाल्वमेंट किया जा रहा है ताकि यह प्रोग्राम कोई ऐसा प्रोग्राम न हो आज चले कल खत्म हो जाये। यह ऐसा तो कोई प्रोग्राम नहीं है कि आज हम चलायें और कल इसकी जरूरत न रहे। यह जिन्दगी का एक हिस्सा बन कर चलने का प्रोग्राम है और जो रुकता रुकता इसके ऊपर आया है। क्योंकि देश में इतनी बड़ी परेशानी इस प्रोग्राम के साथ है जल्दी से इसको एडाप्ट करने और सही ढंग से चलाने में बक्त लगेगा। लेकिन यह खुशी की बात है कि अब लोग समझ रहे हैं, आ रहे हैं और यह सोच कर आ रहे हैं कि छोटी फेमिली रखना उनके हित में और देश के हित में जरूरी है।

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, according to one estimate, with the present rate of growth of population, that is two per cent, by the end of the country, we will be having nearly 960 million people. This is a very colossal figure, according to me, according to anyone of us. May I therefore, ask the hon. Minister whether she is going to adopt certain new measures like bringing in civil code, fixing family norm and (b) bringing an element of compulsion and a large element of persuasion to see that family norms are observed.

SHRIMATI. MOHSINA KIDWAI: It is a suggestion. We will see to it.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: It is not a suggestion. I want an answer for that. Have you got anything?

MR. CHAIRMAN; No, no, I will explain. The question is whether you are contemplating introducing an element of compulsion in the family planning programme.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: No, we are not considering this.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: As Mr. Gunit aduswamy referred to it, right now we are the largest democracy in the world and by the turn of the century we will be the most populous country in the world because not only we are growing fast but also because China has succeeded in controlling her population. Now from the data that has been provided, one thing is obvious—that education is rather closely related to the success in our achieving the target. My question is, what are the lessons we can draw from the Chinese experiment and Chinese success? Can we implement some of them here? Maybe there are two reasons. One, their literacy rate is 58 per cent; 78 per cent of them are married and two, maybe that people below the poverty line there, are absent. But there are any other lessons which can be drawn from their experience which can be adopted here?

MR. CHAIRMAN; You can say something.

श्रीमती मोहसिना किदवाई : सभापति जी, हम अपने मुल्क के हिसाब से देखते हैं कि हमें क्या सूट करता है, हमारे मुल्क के लिये क्या जरूरत है और उसी हिसाब से करते हैं। चाइना के जो कर्न के तरीके हैं उसमें यह है कि हर मेम्बर वहां पर अपनी रिस्पॉसिबिलिटी फील करता है। हमारी बदकिस्मती यह है कि इसी प्रोग्राम को ले कर, आप 77-78 में देखिये कितना बड़ा धक्का पूरे मुल्क को लगा। जिम्मेदारी समझने के बाद हर नागरिक के लिये हर मेम्बर के लिये यह जरूरी है कि वह इसको सोचे। हम इसमें कम्पलशन नहीं कर सकते हम सोच भी नहीं सकते। हम इसके लिये लेजिस्लेशन बनायें और जबरदस्ती

के साथ करे, यह नहीं हो सकता। लेकिन यह जरूरी है कि हर शख्स सोचे, समझे, उसको बताये। जब हम इन चीजों को देखेंगे तब हमारे मुल्क के हिसाब से हालात सही होंगे। जो चाइना की अच्छी चीजें हैं हम उनको लेंगे और उन पर अमल कर सकते हैं लेकिन अपने हालात को देख कर ही हम काम करेंगे।

SHRI THINDIVANAM K. RAMA-MURTHY; Sir, from the figures given by the hon. Minister, sterilisation method is more acceptable and more popular than the other methods. Is it because of lack of education about the other methods, or is it because it has not been taken to the rural masses and they are not apprised of the advantages of other methods?

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Sir, it depends on the State and, as I have said the people, to like whatever method they want to use. So in (many State sterilisation is not so popular, but IUD and other methods are popular. In Kerala sterilisation is most popular. In Uttar Pradesh IUD and other methods are popular. So it depends on the people and the State.

MR, CHAIRMAN: Next question. Question No. 222.

Measures to control floods in Assam

*222. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Business Standard of the 4th July, 1985 under the caption "Dam, needed to curb Brahmaputra flood"; and

(b) if so, what are the details and what steps Government propose to

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Indradeep Sinha.

take regarding various measures suggested in the write-up to control the floods in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKA-RANAND):
(a), Yes, Sir.

(b) The Brahmaputra Board has prepared Feasibility Reports in respect of the Dehang and Subansiri dam projects. The Board has also taken up investigations for other multipurpose projects on Lohit, Noadi-hing and Dibang, tributaries of the Brahmaputra. These will be considered along with the Master Plan for the Flood Control measures in Brahmaputra valley which is under preparation.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, after a lot of effort what we have got by way of an answer from the hon. Minister is at best an exercise in evasion. The hon. Minister stated that the feasibility reports in respect of the Dehang and Subansiri Dam projects have been prepared. What are the feasibility reports? That he has not disclosed. Are they state secrets? When are these Dams to be constructed? Is there any time-schedule? What is the cost involved? Whether any provision has been made in the Seventh Five-Year Plan?

The Minister has also replied:

"The Board has also taken up investigations for other multipurpose projects on Lohit, Noadihing and Dibang tributaries of the Brahmaputra."

Investigations means what? Are the investigations being done in office? Are they being done in the field? When will the investigations reach the stage of preparing feasibility reports? When will the Brahmaputra Valley Flood Control Master Plan be ready? When will it be implemented? The hon. Minister should enlighten the House about these details because