

Panel to Review the Population Policy

2854. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have set up a panel to control population in the country; if so the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have also prepared any action plan to operationalise the National Population Policy; if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government and family welfare devices and services all over the country;

(d) whether Government propose to set up a separate department of Population Control; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) As envisaged in the National Population Policy, 2000 a National Commission on Population has been constituted on 11th May, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to oversee and review the implementation of the Policy.

(b) The National Population Policy, 2000 enumerates Action Plan for each of the strategic themes envisaged for achieving population stabilisation in the country. These operational strategies are listed below:

- (1) Decentralised planning and programme implementation.
- (2) Convergence of service delivery at village levels.
- (3) Empowering women for improved health and nutrition.
- (4) Child survival and child health
- (5) Meeting the unmet needs for family welfare services.
- (6) Under-served population groups:

Urban slums;

Tribal communities, hill area population and displaced and migrant populations;

Adolescents;

Increased participation of men in planned parenthood.

- (7) Diverse health care provides.
- (8) Collaboration with and commitments from non-government organisations and the private sector.
- (9) Mainstream Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
- (10) Contraceptive technology and research on reproductive and child health.
- (11) Providing for the older population.
- (12) Information, Education and Communication

(c) The following steps are being taken under the National Family Welfare Programme to stabilize the increase in population;

- (i) An integrated and holistic programme of Reproductive and Child Health that include Maternal health, Child Health and Contraception issues was launched since, 1997.
- (ii) Information, Education and Communication Programme to create awareness about the benefits of small family.
- (iii) Assistance to State / UTs to maintain certain family welfare infrastructure.
- (iv) Assistance to Voluntary Organizations and NGOs for implementing family welfare programme.

The National Population Policy has been approved by the Government in February, 2000. The Policy seeks to put in place a multi sectoral agenda for population stabilisation which includes increasing out-reach and coverage of reproductive and child health care services, strengthening of health infrastructure, meeting the unmet needs for contraception services, and converging of integrated service delivery at village and house hold levels.

(d) and (e) There is already a separate Department, viz. the Department of Family Welfare within Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to monitor the National Family Welfare Programme.