

mic levels, purchase operations through public/cooperation agencies and/ or exports are undertaken. Whenever edible oils, pulses and potatoes are sold through public distribution system, interest of the consumer is also kept in view while fixing their retail prices.

Growth of Population

185. SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps taken by Government to check of population growth;

(b) the probable decline in birth rate envisaged as a result of the measures so far taken; and

(c) the concrete programmes, if any formulated by Government for more vigorous efforts in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAG-DAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (c) the Government of India have made it clear that the Family Welfare Programme is to be implemented vigorously on a wholly voluntary basis without any element of compulsion or coercion. The Government have reiterated their commitment to the achievement of the national objective of reduction in birth rate to the level of 30 per thousand by 1978-79 and 25 per thousand by 1983-84.

The new statement of policy announced on 28-6-1977 clearly lays down that the Government is totally committed to the Family Welfare Programme and will spare no effort to motivate people to accept it voluntarily in their own interest and in the interest of their children as well as in the larger interests of the nation. The Government's approach will be educational and wholly voluntary. All methods of contraception including voluntary sterilisation are being promoted so that the acceptor may choose any method according to its suitability. Voluntary organisations are also being

encouraged to come forward and participate in the programme increasingly. The most important change that has been brought about in the programme in its reorientation towards the total family welfare concept. Increasing attention is to be paid towards Maternity and Child Health Services and the well being of the mothers and infants. Minister for Health and Family Welfare has addressed the State Chief Ministers on this important subject drawing their attention to the urgent task of ensuring honest, sincere and conscientious effort by the workers engaged in this Programme.

(b) On the basis of Family Welfare performance achieved upto 1976-77 it is estimated that birth rate this year would be below 33 per thousand of population as against the rate of 41 per thousand population during the decade ending with 1971.

Distribution of Fertilizers andl Seeds

186. SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure scientific and stream lined distribution of fertilizers and seeds so as to benefit the common man;

(b) whether Government have studied the system of distribution of fertilizers and seeds as operating at present in various States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is given below in regard to Fertilizer and Seeds:

(1) Fertiliser

With a view to ensure adequate and timely availability of fertiliser to the cultivators, Zonal Conferen-

ces are held with the State Governments and the manufacturers to assess requirements before commencement of each of the two main crop seasons viz. Kharif (February-July) and Rabi (August-January). At these conferences assessment of the requirements during the ensuing seasons is made. Then a coordinated supply plan is prepared in consultation with the State Governments and the fertiliser industry. The supplies to be made by the manufacturers are first allocated and the balance of the requirements of each State is supplied by the Central Fertiliser Pool (imported fertilisers).

While the manufacturers arrange for the supply of fertiliser in the States in consultation with the State Governments through their own channels (which includes their dealers as well as cooperative societies), Pool Fertilisers are allotted to the State Governments for supply to farmers through Cooperative Societies, Agro-Industries Corporations and Government depots etc. With a view to broad-base the distribution arrangements, the State Governments have also been permitted to reallocate pool fertilisers, at their own discretion to private dealers for distribution amongst farmers. At present fertilisers of the Central Fertilisers Pool are stocked with the SWCs/CWC in more than 600 centres throughout the country, in order that dealers may draw their requirements from the nearest source in accordance with the demand of the cultivators. The State Governments also exercise quality, price and movement control in order to protect the interest of farmers as well as the honest dealers under the powers vested in them under the Fertiliser (Control) Order and the Fertiliser (Movement Control) Order.

The State Governments have been urged from time to time to review the number and locations of the

fertiliser sale-points in their areas and to increase the sale points with the objective that the cultivators are enabled to get fertilisers nearest to their places. At present more than 1 lakh fertiliser distribution points are operating in the country.

(2) Seeds

Like fertilisers the requirement of certified seeds for different crops for the coming two seasons are assessed in the Zonal Conferences held in different parts of the country in the months of January and July each year. The State Governments are being encouraged to assess their requirements precisely and to establish firm arrangements for the production of quality seeds either within the State or from outside the State. The Government of India assists the State Governments in arriving at such arrangements.

In order to further develop such arrangements, a National Seeds Programme has been conceived which is now under implementation with the assistance of the World Bank. Under this programme State Governments are being encouraged to set up their own State Seeds Corporations wherever feasible, for arranging production, processing and storage of quality seeds. At the same time the National Seeds Corporation has been charged with the responsibility of undertaking inter-State marketing of seeds and developing seed production efforts for vegetable and other crops, which are not being taken up presently by the State Seeds Corporations.

Seeds are thus available through the dealership net work of the National Seeds Corporation, State Government agencies, Cooperative agencies and private seed dealers. The National Seeds Programme envisages that over a period of time the dealership net work would be

further strengthened so that farmers can get their seeds within bullock-cart distance. This, it is believed, would greatly help the common man in getting quality seeds at fair prices and in time.

Vocational Stream Under the 10+12 System

187. SHRIMATI NOORJEHAN RAZACK: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have so far taken to ensure that the vocational stream under the 10+2 pattern is meaningful and provides genuine facilities for equipping students with skills for employment opportunities;

(b) whether Government have found out any bottlenecks in functioning of the scheme; and

(c) if so, what measures Government propose to take to make the scheme more effective?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (c) The question of introduction of vocational stream at + 2 stage has been receiving serious attention of the Government. High level committees have been set up to re-examine the entire scheme in the light of priorities and to recommend suitable steps to be taken by the Government to avoid bottlenecks for its implementation and ensure that the students acquire the desired levels of skills for employment. The recommendations are expected by the end of January, 1978. The Government will then take appropriate action in the light of the recommendations.

Participation of Voluntary Organisations in providing Medical Care

188. SHRIMATI NOORJEHAN RAZACK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a policy to provide for

participation of voluntary organisation in providing medical care to the general public;

(b) what is the present contribution by the voluntary organisations in this direction; and

(c) what are the details of the financial and other assistance proposed to be given to voluntary organisations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SHRI JAGDAM-BI PRASAD YADAV: (a) Government have a policy to encourage and assist voluntary organisations in providing medical care to the general public.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Colonies Approved in Delhi

189. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA: SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

Will the Minister of WORKS, AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the colonies in Delhi which have been approved till February, 1977;

(b) the number of colonies under consideration for approval till February, 1977;

(c) the names of the colonies approved between February and October, 1977;

(d) the names of the colonies which were being considered but have not been approved; and

(e) by when all the colonies are proposed to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.