

SPECIAL MENTIONS**Demand to give justice to southern States under Fifteenth Finance Commission**

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, the news that India will overtake China and become the world's most populous country just eight years from now comes at a time when most States have already reached replacement levels of fertility. However, six States still have total fertility rates in excess of the replacement level of 2.1 and need concentrated attention. These are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Even the much-heralded model State of Gujarat would have reached this landmark twenty years after undivided Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, twenty-five years after Tamil Nadu and thirty years after Kerala.

As the country's population increases, the relative shares of States will also undergo a considerable shift. The five South Indian States will see their combined share of population decline from the present level of about 15 per cent to around 12 per cent by the middle of the century while the share of just four States—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan—will increase from something like 40 per cent now to about 44 per cent. The population of these States will continue to grow as South Indian States would face either stable or declining population. It would be highly unfair, Sir, if States, particularly those in south India that have pioneered family planning, end up losing seats in Parliament. They need to be reassured now. Equally important, the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission expected in a few months' time should also not end up penalizing the South Indian States and if they indeed do as is being feared, the Union Government must step in and compensate them.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. BANDA PRAKASH (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती अम्बिका सोनी (पंजाब): महोदय, मैं भी अपने आपको इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

श्री राजमणि पटेल (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी अपने आपको इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री हुसैन दलवाई (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं भी अपने आपको इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री सुशील कुमार गुप्ता (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली): महोदय, मैं भी अपने आपको इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Mention made by the hon. Member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we also associate ourselves with the mention made by the hon. Member.

**Demand to make law provisioning deemed consent for
donation of eye after death**

SHRI K. J. ALPHONS (Rajasthan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are 15 million blind persons in this country. 20 per cent of these can gain sight if cornea was available. Additionally, two lakh persons are becoming blind every year. Most of these people can get back sight if cornea is available. Unfortunately, only 25,000 corneas are getting donated a year in India. Buddhist religious authorities in Sri Lanka issued a dictat that eye belongs to the society after death. Today, Sri Lanka exports cornea to over 50 countries. In many countries, there is a law of deemed consent, which means that unless specifically willed, eyes will belong to the society after death.

I request that a Bill relating to deemed consent be introduced in this House, which can be discussed and passed after the House applies its mind.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUBHASISH CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.