

कि पी.ए.सी. की आब्जरवेशन के ऊपर ...(व्यवधान)... इसके ऊपर सदन में चर्चा करायी जाये जिससे कि दूध का दूध और पानी का पानी हो जाये। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: बस हो गया। माननीय सदस्य बैठ जाइये। ...(व्यवधान)... पचौरी जी, आप बैठ जाइये। आप बैठ जाइये। ...(व्यवधान)... आप बैठ जाइये। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: दुबारा से जार्ज फर्नान्डीज को रक्षा मंत्री बनाया गया है। ...(व्यवधान)... प्रधान मंत्री जी पहले रक्षा मंत्री जी का इस्तीफा लें। ...(व्यवधान)... पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी की रिपोर्ट को गंभीरता से लिया जाये और इस सदन में उस पर चर्चा कराई जाये। यह मेरा आपसे निवेदन है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: सर, प्रश्न काल में ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइये। आप बैठ जाइये। हो गया। देखिए, यह प्रश्न अभी मेरे सामने नहीं है। इसके बारे में प्रश्न उठा है कि इस पर विचार किया जाये। मैं बी. ए. सी. की मीटिंग में इस पर विचार कर लूंगा। ...(व्यवधान)... प्रश्न संख्या : 261.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

National Population Policy

*261. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy laid down by the National Commission on Population towards a stable and sustainable population size;

(b) whether it is a fact that the National Population Policy (NPP) desires to bring the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to the replacement level of 2.10 by the year 2010;

(c) whether it would be possible with this TFR of 2.10 to restrict the National Population to 1107 million by 2010 A.D.; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Planning Commission has set a target of population growth of 16.2 per cent between 2001 and 2011 in the Tenth Five Year Plan, implying a population of 1193 million?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The policy towards a stable and sustainable population size has been laid down in the National Population Policy (NPP) 2000. The salient features of NPP are *inter alia*:

- (i) address the unmet needs for basic reproductive and child health services, supplies and infrastructure,
- (ii) promote delayed marriage for girls not earlier than age 18 and preferably after 20 years of age,
- (iii) achieve universal access to information/counselling and services for fertility regulation and contraception with a wide basket of choices,
- (iv) promote vigorously the small family norm to achieve replacement levels of TFR.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The NPP projected the population for 2010 to reach 1107 million if TFR of 2.1 is achieved by that year on the basis of 1991 Census data. However, the 2001 Census has shown that the actual population is greater than the NPP projections for 2001.

(d) Yes, Sir.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, India, perhaps, is the first country among the developing countries in the world, which has launched the Family Planning Programme as back as in 1952. Since then, we have made many statements; particularly, the Government of India has come out with many policy documents and statements. In 1976...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't go into the history of it. Please come to your question.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Yes, Sir. I would like to remind it, Sir, because this Government...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please straightway come to your question. I won't allow you to remind the history. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: This Government is insensitive; that is why I would like to mention...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, I would like to know about the implementation of the National Population Policy which our hon. Prime Minister, Vajpayeeji, has announced on July 22, 2000. While setting up the National Population Commission, he has stated, clearly, the objectives of where we have to go, but, unfortunately, after three years, we are catching up with a running population growth and with, as you know, Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any question with you? ...*(Interruptions)*... Is there any question with you?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: The second thing is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rajasekharan, is there any question with you?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, I would like to know what are the specific steps that the Government of India is going to take in this direction.

SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, the fact is that the birth rate has declined from 49.2 per cent, in 1911, to about 26.1 per cent, in 2001; the death rate in India fell from 42.6 per cent, in 1911, to about 8.7 per cent, in 2001. Sir, the position, today, is that in eight States the TFR of 2.1 per cent has been achieved. These are Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Nagaland, Delhi, Pondicherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh. There are 11 States, where it is estimated to reach the TFR of 2.1 by 2010. They are Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab. The States which may not be able to reach the TFR of 2.1 by 2010 are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Meghalaya, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.

Now, health is a State subject. There are various projects of the States and the Centre has also been supporting them. This must go to the grassroot level. The Panchayati Raj institutions and the State

Governments should also take steps to see that the target is achieved and steps are being taken. In fact, if you kindly see the Policy of the National Population Commission, you will find the objectives. We have set them out in the answer to the question. The main objectives are to review, monitor and give directions for implementation of the National Population Policy with a view to meeting the goals set out in the Policy; to promote synergy between demographic, educational, environmental, and developmental programmes so as to hasten population stabilisation; to promote inter-sectoral coordination in planning and implementation across Government agencies of the Central and the State Governments; to involve civil society and the private sector to explore the possibilities of international cooperation in support of the goal set out in the Policy; and to facilitate the development of vigorous people's movement in support of this national effort. So, the policy of two-child family norm is being targeted and steps have been taken to see that this goal is reached.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, my second supplementary is this. As the hon. Minister put it, the problem States are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. These States alone contribute to 40 per cent of the population growth in the country. What are the definite steps which you are taking to contain the population growth in these States? As far as population control is concerned, you can see North and South divide. All the States in the South are trying to enforce very strictly the two-child norm. But, unfortunately, it is not happening in the North and these are the four States. This is what the hon. Minister has stated now. What definite steps is the Government taking, as far as containing the population growth in these States is concerned? Would the Government make the National Commission on Population as the monitoring agency? The monitoring committee had been set up under the Prime Minister's Office directly. But, unfortunately, it has not been effectively monitoring the whole population growth throughout the country. What are the steps that are being taken in this regard?

SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, as I have said, various steps have been taken in the last few years. I can tell you that it is in the List of Priority Items in Category-1 and the population control is to be monitored by the Prime Minister's Office. It is one of the priority items in Category-1. This is the latest step that has been taken.

So far as the Health Ministry is concerned, they have constituted an Empowered Action Group, which is known as "EAG", on 20th March, 2001 and during the Tenth Plan an amount of Rs. 250 crores has been set aside for the purpose of implementing the programmes which they have taken up. As I have said, it is mainly a State subject and the State at the Panchayat level and at the Government level should take steps for reducing the population growth.

श्री सभापति: माननीय सदस्यगण, जैसे जनसंख्या बढ़ रही है, उसी प्रकार से मेरे पास सप्लीमेंटरी क्वेश्चन पूछे जाने के लिए नाम आ रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं उचित समझता हूँ कि विचार करके इसके ऊपर हाउस में चर्चा कर ली जाए और जो भी मैम्बर्स इस पर बोलना चाहें, बोल सकते हैं।

Ban on Pakistani newspapers

*262. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a continued mutual ban in India and Pakistan on each other's newspapers; and

(b) whether as a logical follow-up of Delhi-Lahore Bus Service and restoration of airline flights between India and Pakistan, India would take the initiative in lifting the ban on Pakistani newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government of India does not discriminate against Pakistan in the import of newspapers. Import of printed material from Pakistan continues to be permitted. General restrictions on the import of seditious, inflammatory or obscene material from any foreign country apply in case of Pakistan also. According to available information, Pakistan does not permit the import of newspapers from India.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that India is permitting the entry of Pakistani newspapers into India. But Pakistan has not given any positive response. Sir, the Prime Minister has reopened the Delhi-Lahore bus route and we have welcomed it. Then a child, Noor, came from Pakistan to undergo surgery at Bangalore