

the membership strength of each group.

Compulsory Family Planning to Check Pollution

69. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the average birth and mortality rate in India per day;

(b) whether there is any proposal to enact a uniform law to check rise in population by making family planning compulsory for all;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The estimates of Birth and Death Rates are available on annual bases and not on daily basis. Accordingly, the latest available provisional Sample registration System (SRS) estimates of birth and death rates at national level for the year 1990 are 29.9 and 9.6 per thousand population, respectively. However, by applying these rates to the 1991 census population figure, the estimated number of births and deaths per day works out to about 69165 and 22207 respectively.

(b) to (d) The Family Welfare Programme in India is being promoted on a voluntary basis in keeping with the democratic traditions of the country. To convey the message of small family norm to the masses, motivational, educational and persuasive efforts are made without resort to any form of coercion. As such there is no proposal to enact a uniform law to check rise in population by making family planning compulsory for all.

Preservation of Himalayan Plants

70. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:
SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Himalayan ranges are almost extinct of herbal and aromatic plants as they are either being exported or smuggled out of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Aromatic and herbal plants are used both for internal consumption as well as export. The Export policy of India has put strict restriction on the export of plants that are considered endangered. The export of remaining species of plants and articles is allowed subject to the conditions prescribed under the "Convention on International trade in Endangered species of Wild Fauna and Flora". Pre-shipment inspection of the consignment of plant products for export is undertaken by the wildlife preservation officers of the Central Government, which has led to detection of attempted smuggling of aromatic plants and herbs from time to time. Legislative measures have also been tightened to prevent extraction of endangered species of plants.

Shortage of Foodgrains in Bengal

71. SHRI SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state: