

# LOK SABHA

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Wednesday, March 22, 1995/Chaitra 1, 1917 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at

Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

### MEMBER SWORN

SHRIMATI SHEILA F. IRANI (Nominated Anglo-Indian)  
made and subscribed the affirmation.

11.02 hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Conference on Population and Development

\*121. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:

SHRI RAM KAPSE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Conference on Population and Development was held in Cairo during 1994;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof;

(c) the composition of the Indian delegation to the Conference and their views in regard to population control in India;

(d) the reaction of the other Delegate Nations thereto;

(e) the success made by the Conference in achieving its objectives; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government regarding implementation of population control in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To contribute to appraisal of the progress made in reaching goals and objectives of earlier conferences and to adopt a set of recommendations for the future; to enhance the mobilization of resources needed for the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference.

(c) and (d) A nine member official Indian delegation led by the then Minister of Health and Family Welfare represented India. The delegation stressed the linkages between population and development. This stand was accepted by the Conference.

(e) The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) has succeeded in arriving at a set of internationally agreed recommendations to be implemented over the next two decades.

(f) The Department of Family Welfare has initiated action on certain important recommendations like improving quality of care and delivery of reproductive health care services through the primary health delivery system.

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to know from you whether the Government has planned to bring out any legislation to prevent and control population

explosion by way of restricting certain amenities to the third child, to bring it on par with the China Government. Has this step been discussed in the Conference?

DR. C. SILVERA: The Government has taken various steps to control the population growth in the country. At the moment the Government is not going to bring any Bill for this purpose.

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: I would like to know whether the Government is aware that proper care is not taken in the case of patients undergoing operations like Vasectomy and Tubectomy or other operations, with the result people are scared and are not coming forward to participate in the programme, as a result of which the programme is a failure.

DR. C. SILVERA: Sir, the Family Welfare Programme and the Family Planning Programme are 100 per cent funded by the Central Government. The State Governments are the implementing authorities. It is upto the State Governments to implement these Programmes properly. All the facilities that are required are provided by the State Governments.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: The number displayed every morning on Doordarshan in fact points to the failure of earlier policies. Has any substantial or meaningful change been effected in this Conference? Or, was it only a cosmetic change? I would like to ask you further whether you have decided about the incentives and disincentives to be provided for the Indian nationals after this Conference. Has any policy to frame effective child care services been framed, especially to use the enhanced mobilisation of resources which you have mentioned in the reply?

DR. C. SILVERA: This Conference was in continuation of the previous Conferences that had been held in 1974, 1984 and 1994. Prior to this Conference, there were three Conferences chalking this out. In general, in this Conference, there are various global problems which are thrashed out and in particular, we have given certain ideas, our delegation has given certain ideas to the Conference. But the steps that the hon. Members are asking are being taken care of in our programmes in the country.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Hon. Speaker, Sir, he has not replied my question.

MR. SPEAKER: You had three questions going in three directions.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (THANE): He could have replied at least one.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all said and done, in a country like ours, where poverty is high, illiteracy is high and people have got belief in various religions, while countries like Indonesia are taking cooperation and assistance from religious heads, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, whether the Government will convene a meeting of religious heads and seek their cooperation in the matter of family planning and population control, which is very, very essential for our country's development and for the benefits to reach the poorer sections.

DR. C. SILVERA: The Centre cannot execute the whole programme on its own. The State Governments are the

implementing authorities. Besides the State Governments, NGOs are also involved.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, there is a specific question.

DR. C. SILVERA: The involvement of religious leaders, I think, is a good suggestion.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the replies, the Minister has said that one of the recommendations is to mobilise resources for the implementation of the recommendations made by the Conference. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in the Conference it has been discussed that the developed countries help the Third World countries in the matter of financial assistance for mobilisation of resources to implement the recommendations made in the Conference.

DR. C. SILVERA: The programme of action has been chalked out by the Conference and the Government is following up the cases. The Department of Health and Family Welfare, in particular, is calling a meeting of the Health Secretaries of various States on the 3rd and 4th of April to discuss and follow up the cases.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been seen and experienced that as a result of faster economic development and literacy, population growth has dwindled in many countries of the world. This fact has also been recognised and accepted by the Cairo Conference. Has any stress been laid by our Health Ministry in this respect? Has the linkage between economic development and population growth been accepted by our Health Ministry or not? If yes, what steps are going to be taken by the Health Ministry in this regard in order to control the population growth?

MR. SPEAKER: Well, it is not a specific question.

DR. K.D. JESWANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are about 90 districts in the country which are badly lagging behind in respect of the population control programme. They have disturbed the overall national statistics of the country. They have been very well identified for quite some time. During the last three to four years, the Government is showing its deep concern over the problem of population rise in these districts.

Now there are a number of intricate problems which are affecting these 90 districts. Did the Indian delegation have any chance to pose these problems in the Conference? Did they show their concern for controlling the population in these districts? Is the Government of India likely to improve the quality of care and delivery of reproductive health care system in the primary health centres particularly in these 90 districts?

DR. C. SILVERA: The Government is aware of the problems in many districts of the country. As I said earlier, we are expecting the State Governments to cooperate with the Central Government in this project. It is Centrally sponsored and funded by the Central Government.

We have approached the World Bank for some aid for the Indian population project. There is a project by which funds are given to various States and specified districts where there is concentration of workers. The Government is aware of it. This, in particular, has not been stressed. But in general, the problem, as such, is put forward to the Conference. The Government is looking after this problem.

SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK: Sir, the present population is causing grave concern in the country today. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to take serious steps and not just do regular routine work. The population of the country is increasing every day beyond any limitation. That is why the Government has to take serious steps to control the population.

Has the Government any idea to change the present system of population control and to take some serious steps in this regard?

Has the Government any idea to use Ayurveda and Homeopathy to control the population at present?

DR. C. SILVERA: Sir, the Government is taking the population problem very seriously. Our project also is put in such a way that we are serious in this matter. We are expecting the State Governments also to take up this problem seriously. But unfortunately, some of the States are taking it more lightly than what we expect them to do. In future, we are expecting full cooperation from the State Governments.

As regards the Ayurveda and Homeopathy, trials have been going on. We are exploring all possible means, including Allopathy, Homeopathy as well as Indian systems of medicine, for controlling the population.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker Sir, the population of our country has crossed the figure of 91 crore. It has been told on doordarshan today only. I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister about the World Bank assistance being received for the family planning and why this programme is not implemented in the slums? Secondly, I would like to know that while the family planning programme is being implemented in Arabian countries, Pakistan and Iran etc., then why it is being opposed in our country in the name of religion, so would you yield to this opposition or act against it. ..(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. C. SILVERA: Sir, there have been various projects with World Bank assistance about which we can supply information to the member.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Sir, there has been criticism, of late, about the lack of effective contribution or intervention by the Indian Delegation in the Cairo Conference. What is your comment about this?

MR. SPEAKER: It is disallowed.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL: Mr. Speaker Sir, I had the opportunity to attend this population conference in Cairo. Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya had also taken part in it. In that conference each country of the world, including the Muslim countries accepted that population control should be essential and the countries which are not doing anything in this regard, they should also take some steps. Through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister if this family planning programme is being made compulsory for all the religions to control population in this poor country and to uplift all the sections of the society. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can explain the Government's policy.

DR. C. SILVERA: Government has a policy of various programmes. I cannot mention everything at this moment but the fact remains that it is voluntary. There is no imposition. We are expecting everybody to help us in this matter. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has said 'voluntary'. So, he has replied.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Member has asked whether it is being made compulsory.

SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL: Mr. Speaker Sir, my question has not been replied. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not forget that different Governments are there in different States. They can also do it, if they want. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important question. Whether its implementation will be compulsory for the people of all the religions or not, the hon. Minister has not given any reply to it.

MR. SPEAKER: You can take it that he has said that it is voluntary. He is not going to make it compulsory.

[English]

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Sir, when we compare our country with a country like China, our birth rate is very high like 27 and odd per thousand whereas China's figure is about 13 per thousand. What is the target fixed by our country till 2000 AD and the targets fixed by various States to achieve our country's target? Is this target sufficient to reach the kind of birth rate target which we want to achieve by 2000 AD? If not, is there any proposal to the States to increase this target so that our country's birth rate will be achieved by 2000 AD?

At the same time, certain States are linking these incentive schemes like giving of a ration card, house site, house, schooling, health, etc., with the family planning programme. In such a case why can the Government not give a direction to the States to link up family planning programme with the implementation of the programmes like DRDA loans etc?

MR. SPEAKER: Do not expect the Central Government to give direction always. Let them do it on their own also.

DR. C. SILVERA: Sir, target for the crude birth rate at the end of the Eighth Plan Period is 26 per thousand population, infant mortality rate is 70 per thousand and couple protection rate is 56 per cent.

### Kashmiri Migrants

\*122. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN

CHANDRA KHANDURI:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals for payment of cash assistance to Kashmiri Migrants living at Panchkula and Pinjore In Haryana at par with those living in Jammu, Delhi and Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to grant revised cash assistance to these Kashmiri migrants; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The Government of Haryana had received representations in 1991 on behalf of the Kashmiri migrants living in Panchkula and Pinjore for relief/cash assistance at par with those living in Jammu, Delhi and Chandigarh.

(b) The State Government had expressed inability to provide relief at scales prevalent at Jammu, Delhi or Chandigarh in view of the meagre resources available with the State Government. It was decided to provide only such facilities to the Kashmiri migrants as are given to the migrants from Punjab, viz. free education facilities (tuition fee only) to dependent children of migrant families upto degree level, temporary ration cards for procuring essential commodities at controlled rates, community accommodation at Community Centres, and free medical aid from Government hospitals, dispensaries and PHCs (outdoor treatment only).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Different States/UTs have different scales of relief, keeping in view their financial resources. Haryana Government have decided to maintain parity between migrants from Kashmir and Punjab.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer is not only sad and a matter of deep concern but also reflects an irresponsible approach. Around three lakh migrants have been roaming in various cities of our country for the last six years and are leading a disgraceful and hell-like life. The terrorists have committed atrocities on them but the Government too is neglecting them. The Union Government has kept itself aside and has left it to the State Governments. They should try to understand ... (Interruptions)...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please come to the Question.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Sir, I am giving little information.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a speech you are making. You come to the Question.