

released from Bokaro Steel Plants and the entire water from Bokaro to Durgapur got polluted. May I know from the Minister whether the Government is considering to formulate a specific plan in coordination with the public sector undertakings—because most of the industries on the banks of river Damodar are public sector undertakings to stop the pollution of river Damodar.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not asking a question on policy.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the stretch of the Damodar river from Dhanbad to Haldia is, I entirely agree with the hon. Member, one of the most highly polluted stretches. It is presently categorised in the D and E categories. This is one of the rivers which is planned to be included in the National River Action Plan and the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II. The water problem here is both in the dissolved oxygen in the BDO and in the toxicity of the water. This is arising mainly, as the hon. Member said, from the industrial waste and from the large industries alongside the river. We are planning to include this. This has been identified. The water survey there has been done and we are planning to include this in the next programme which comes up.

World Bank Report on Population Growth

*366. **SHRI MOHAN SINGH:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank in its recent report has commented upon India's population growth rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the efforts made so far to bring down the birth rate with the assistance of the States and the voluntary organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY

WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

According to the latest "World Development Report, 1991", published by the World Bank, the projected average annual growth rate of population of India during 1989-2000 is 1.7% and the size of population in 2000 A.D. is 1007 million. Another World Bank publication, namely, the "World Population Projections (1989-90 Edition)- short and Long Term Estimates" also indicates an average annual growth rate of 1.86% during 1990-95 and 1.65% during 1995-2000 with the size of population estimated to be reaching 1010.8 million in 2000 A.D. The latter report has, *inter alia*, expressed the concern that India presently contributes more to world population growth than China or any other country and will continue to do so upto the year 2150. Its eventual stationary population is estimated at 2.3 times of its 1985 population (estimated by the World Bank as 765.1 million).

A Standing Committee of Experts on Population projections appointed by the Planning Commission had, in 1989 prepared a set of population projections. According to this, the projected population growth rate of India by the year 2001 A.D. is 1.6% with a population size of 987 million by 2000 A.D.

So far, the projections of this Standing Committee of experts in respect of the year 1991 (843.6 million) has been found very close to the actual latest provisional Census (1991) figure of 844.3 million.

Although the 1991 Census figures have revealed the annual exponential growth rate as 2.11% during 1981-91 decade, which is marginally lower than the corresponding figure of 2.22% during the preceding decade (1971-81), the population growth rate is still considered very high and is a cause of concern.

The population problem is primarily

tackled through the National Family Welfare Programme. The programme is 100% centrally funded and is implemented through the States/Union Territories. Emphasis is laid on the role of voluntary organisations and other non-governmental agencies in implementing the programme. With the implementation of the Family Welfare Programme, the birth rate in the country has declined from 41.7 per thousand during 1951-61 to 29.9 per thousand (as per Sample Registration System estimates) for the year, 1990. Continuous efforts are on to improve the performance of the Programme with a view to bringing down the birth rate.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the reply of the hon. Minister it appears that the Indian population is increasing very rapidly as compared to other countries of the world and people estimate that by the years 2050 India's population will be more than that of China.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that since the Central Government organises the family planning programmes and the programmes relating to population control through the State Government and the Central Governments provides funds for such programmes, the figures available as of today show that the pace with which the targets have been achieved the population has also increased in proportion to that pace. It proves itself that all the family planning programmes have failed. In the present situation is the Central Government preparing a comprehensive plan to issue directives to the States to make changes in old methods of the family planning and of the vasectomy as also in the guidelines to control population?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTDEAR): The hon. Member is totally right in saying that the population of the country is increasing very rapidly. But it is not correct to say that it is not being controlled. In this connection. We do not want to issue directives to any State Government because it is a State-

Subject and if anything is to be done, that will be done in consultation with the State Governments. Moreover, I would like to tell the hon. Member that this programme is not the programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare alone nor is it of all the State Governments nor is of the Government of India but it is the programme of all the people of the country because the population of the country is continuously increasing. Therefore, it is a challenge to all of us—whether we are in the Government or in the Opposition. There is yet much to be done to control population. Once again I would like to request you that what has been done in the past needs slight revamping and restructuring.

For this purpose we are going to take steps soon after consulting the State Governments and the Opposition Leaders so that our family planning programme may become the people's programme and people's movement and population is controlled fully.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Minister for his didactic speech and want to know the grant given by the Central Government to State Governments to control population during the Seventh Five Year Plan and what is the details of achievement in this regard? I would like to know whether the Central Government has examined the extent of truth in the achievement report received from State Governments. How far this achievement report is true and how far it is not true. If it does not bear any truth.....

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is getting lengthy. Please be brief.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Yes Sir, I would like to know in brief from the hon. Minister about the achievements of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I would like to tell the hon. Member that the target fixed for the Seventh Five Year Plan according to birth rate was 29.1 and we have achieved 29.9. In

some States we have achieved it and in other States we have not achieved it but it is our determination. It is not only our determination but also a firm resolution (*Interruptions*) It is our firm resolution that much should be done in this connection. We do not want to take a cafeteria approach on this subject but our new plan will be result-oriented programme and the public from Panchayat level, town level to Parliament level will be involved in it.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker Sir, the statement given by the hon. Minister in reply to the original question really highlights the serious aspects of the problem. He said at present the population of our country is approximately 85 crore and according to an estimate of the World Bank report it will be 100 crore by the end of this century. According to an estimate of the Planning Commission it will be 98.7 crore. The situation is very serious but both the answer do not show any sign that the Government is aware about the seriousness of this issue. Although the financial responsibility of the family planning programmes lies solely with the Union Government, yet he has said that it depends on the State Governments. If the first requirement of national policy on an issue is there, it is on the family planning and population. That Hon. Minister is present here. On many important issues the Government convenes an all party meeting and advice is taken. Is there any proposal to formulate an integrated population policy at national level after knowing the alternatives which other parties suggest?

[*English*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Sir, we can have a detailed debate in the House before we have *sarvodaya baithak*. I have no problem, Sir, because we have so much to tell the House, so much to hear from the other Members. We would like to have a debate at the earliest. This is one of the points, one of the issues on which a national debate is needed and before that a debate in Parliament is needed. Then of course, all the parties will

be here, we can certainly have it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that the Prime Minister has agreed for a discussion at the national level. I would like to know specifically from the hon. Minister whether the Government will introduce a system of incentives and disincentives so that the people are more inclined to go in for this family planning programmes where preference will be given for their children in the educational institutions and in the matter of scholarships, and also the self-employment programme like the IRDP and other programmes. There should be a clear discrimination just as what is happening in China.

Sir, I would also like to know from the hon. Minister, apart from eliciting the cooperation from the political parties, whether this Government will also invite the Heads of different religions because in Indonesia, a country with 90 per cent of Muslim population, there also the religious leaders are giving propaganda and helping the Government in an effort to bring down the population growth. I would like to know whether our Government also will invite the religious Heads and seek their cooperation also. I would like to know this categorically from the hon. Minister.

SHRI M.L.FOTEDAR: Sir, I must tell the hon. Member that we have reached a stage in history where birth will not be an incident but will be a deliberate thing. For that, to what the Prime Minister said, I would like to add that this Government feels very much concerned about this problem. The Prime Minister has taken note of this and we are going to discuss the matter in the National Development Council which meets here on the 23rd and 24th of this month, in which all the States will be represented. Then the President of India also had taken the initiative and he is going to discuss this matter in the Governors' Conference. We have also taken the initiative, we have convened a meeting of all the State Health Ministers on the 6th and 7th

discuss the problem and we have sent them a draft action plan for consideration, and I am happy to say that the Prime Minister will be giving a valedictory address in that and we have absolutely no objection and it is not a question of no objection, it is a question of national necessity that all political parties, all opinion makers at every level have to be associated with this. The Hon. Member has pointed out something, we do not want to do it on community basis, it has to be done on the population basis and the village basis. Let us not bring those factors into this.

So far as the other question of China is concerned, the hon. Member is aware that here in India we are governed by the consent of the people. Here, we have to take steps which are persuasive. We have learnt lessons from our bitter experience in 1977 and we propose to involve all sections of the society in the implementation of this programme. I am not blaming any State Government. I know that the programme is of the Centre, but it has to be implemented by the States. We are going to provide them the necessary guidance and after the National Development Council approves the Action Plan papers, I will be very glad to discuss that in the House so that I can get the census of the House for its implementation in the field.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the Family Planning Programme is supported by the Centre, it has to be implemented by the State Governments. In the earlier years, it was quite systematically done, but now-a-days there is an impression that necessary steps are not being taken to reach the targets and the incentives which are given by the Government also do not reach the poorer sections at all the levels. Every developmental work is associated with population growth. When our country is going to implement a national programme, I would like to know what are the steps being taken by the Ministry to have the targets fixed to the States so that a systematic programme is given to them towards involving the public with proper incentives.

SHRI M.L.FOTEDAR: Sir, I must submit with all humility that I would not like to fix target for sterilisation. I would like that the programme should be purposeful and it has to be result-oriented. The results will prove as to what are the targets. The targets should be fixed not for sterilisation, but for bringing down the birthrate. Then, the hon. Member has asked whether any systematic approach is there. I must say that there has to be a systematic programme. The entire programme has to be revamped and restructured so that it becomes the people's movement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious question and relates to the future of the nation. The repeated brief answers of the hon. Minister show that he is not taking it seriously. There are two aspects of this issue. Shri Advani did not discuss one aspect of this issue due to hesitation. My suggestion is that Government should impose a restriction on every person that he should not have more than two children. Recently the Prime minister of China visited India. It was done in China.....(*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Government try to formulate a national population policy which may prohibit a persons to have more than two children. After all, what is the difficulty in formulating such a policy?

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: What will happen to Lahoo Prasad then?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: The Hon. Prime Minister is present here. Our Hon. Prime Minister and the Chief Minister are the two persons whose children...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are taking too much time. Please come to your question.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: I request you that a Commission about family planning should be constituted under the Chairmanship of our Hon. Prime Minister and the Chief Minister to see how family planning works. At the same time, will there be a restriction on politicians to the effect that those having more than two children will not be given any portfolio of a Minister?

[*English*]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Make it applicable with retrospective effect.

MR. SPEAKER: I will do it.

SHRI M.L.FOTEDAR: May I reply the question now? The hon. Member asked whether any restriction will be there. I would personally like to say that so far as the slogan '*Hum Do Hamare Do*' is concerned I would prefer to say *Hum Do Hamara Ek*. But it is a matter which cannot be enforced with coercion. There has to be persuasion. We are living in a democracy and in a democratic set up, the will of the people has to be judged. This is number one.

Number two is, the hon. Member has asked whether anything is to be done about those who govern this country or the States or the panchayats. I have said at many places that we will have to build responsible leadership in this country. It is my personal idea that from panchayat to Parliament, we must have some system so that everybody adopts the small family norm. Only those people should govern the State or the panchayat or the zilla parishad who adopt the small family norm. I must tell the hon. Member that this will be done prospectively.

I must tell the hon. Member that none else than the Chief Minister of Bihar has told me that he will fully associate himself with this programme so that the future of this country is safe.

MR. SPEAKER: I feel that many hon. Members want to discuss this matter and there is a proposal before us that it should be

discussed in the House. We will try to find appropriate time for this, if not in this Session, in the next Session. We will discuss it.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: I want to make one small supplementary. I am coming from your State and I want to say that outdated contraceptive pills have been given to women. Yesterday in a morcha I came to know that the contraceptive pills that have been given to the women for distribution were outdated. Will you look into this?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I will look into this.

Opening of Blood Banks

*367. **SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extent help for opening a blood bank in each district for improving the quality of life of the common man;

(b) whether any proposal has been received from any international agencies like UNICEF, WHO, USAID or World Bank for setting up of blood banks or co at AIDS;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether such facility is proposed to be extent to the Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDHARTHA): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Government is implementing a plan for the development of Blood Banks in a phased manner. Strengthening of District Blood Banks is also a component included in