

activities, academic institutions and professionals:

- (iii) There is a built-in scope for convergence of Health, Nutrition and Childhood Education Service at the Anganwadi level;
- (iv) Two-thirds of the population covered by the ICDS Programme comprised Scheduled Castes, scheduled Tribes and other backward communities;
- (v) 62% of children benefitting from the programme are from the low income group households i.e. income below Rs.2000/-p.a.
- (vi) Studies in some ICDS areas by Central Technical Committee have been shown a decline in infant mortality rate, birth rates and greater acceptance of family planning than in non-ICDS blocks;
- (vii) The immunisation coverage of children in the ICDS areas is substantially higher, some times even 3-4 times higher than in non-ICDS areas. The incidence of severe malnutrition declined considerably in ICDS covered areas:
- (viii) Over 80% anganwadis are easily accessible.

(d) The priority with regard to ICDS is to expand the programme so as to cover as many Community Development Blocks as possible within the resources available during 8th Plan. In carrying out such expansion, efforts are being made to reach those who are at greatest need by first focussing on areas with concentration of population living below poverty and belonging to Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

### Population Control Programme

957. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:  
SHRI SHRVAN KUMAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have arrived at a national consensus in support of Family Welfare Programme in the recent past:

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the incentives and disincentives proposed to make the population control programme a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). For the success of the Population Control Programme in the country, active involvement of all sections of the society is a vital importance. Transforming the population control programme into a national movement require a broad national consensus and commitment of people of all shades/opinion. During the past few months, the following steps have been taken to have a national consensus to meet the challenge of stabilising the population growth in the country:-

(i) The Population problem was discussed in the last meeting of the National Development Council (NDC), where there was unenimity that population control should be kept above party politics and should receive the highest national priority.

(ii) A committee of the National Development Council (NDC) has been constituted to go into all aspects of the Population control policy and strategies and made recommendations for formulating a National Population suitable strategies and interventions for implementing the population control programme on a holistic and multisectoral basis. the Committee has already met once.

(iii) In this Conference of Minister incharge of Health and Family Welfare of States/Union Territories held in January, 1992, there was unanimity that population control is of the urgent national importance. The Action Plan formulated by the Ministry of health and Family Welfare in close consultation with the State Governments/ Union Territories Administration, for giving a new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme, was unanimously endorsed for implementation.

(iv) Population Control has been identified as one of the thrust areas in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

As a result of the above initiatives, the Population issues have been brought to the Centre stage of the national agenda.

(c) In order to make the population control programme as success, a comprehensive package of incentives/disincentives is under formulation.

#### **Regional Offices of U.G.C.**

958. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of the locations where the University Grants Commission has decided to set up its regional offices in the country during the Eighth Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARISELJA): There is a decision of the UGC, in principle, to set up its regional offices in different parts of the country. However the commission has not taken a decision in regard to the location of these offices.

#### **Privatisation of Railway Product on Units**

960. SHRI RAMKAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to privatise always production units;

(b) if so, the production units which are listed for privatisation; and

(c) the companies which have offered their services in this connection along with the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. The existing production units are not to be privatised.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### **Constituency Cell for Pollution Abatement**

961. SHRI SHASHI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up or proposed to set up a constituency cell for rendering advise to the small and medium scale industries on preventive aspects in air and water pollution abatement;