

Oral Contraceptives

430. **Shri A. V. Patil:** Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that social workers engaged in family planning activities feel that oral contraceptives could not be an answer for a mass programme; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Government have no such information.

(b) Does not arise.

Legalization of Abortion

431. **Shri A. V. Patil:**
Shri Nambiar:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Women's Organisations have opposed the legalization of abortion and raising the age of consent of girls from 18 to 20 as a means to check population growth; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) and (b). Yes. The views expressed by the All India Women's Conference on the legalization of abortion and raising the minimum age of marriage for girls are given in the Statement placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-389/67]. Apparently there is a misunderstanding about abortion. What is being contemplated is liberalisation in accordance with the recommendations of Shanti Lal Shah Committee and not total legalization.

M/s. Bird & Co.

432. **Shri P. K. Ghosh:**
Shri Kartik Oraon:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a departmental enquiry has been ordered into the doings of the Appellate Board which dealt with the case of under invoicing by M/s. Bird & Co.;

(b) if so, whether the enquiry has been completed and the report submitted to the Government;

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the findings of the enquiry; and

(d) whether the enquiry Report will be laid on the Table?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The Central Board of Excise and Customs are a quasi-judicial body functioning under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. In deciding the appeals filed by Messrs. Bird & Co. the Board have only acted in exercise of their powers under the said Act. There is, therefore, no question of any departmental enquiry. However, in view of the importance of the case, Government have sought the opinion of the Solicitor General on the appellate orders passed by the Board.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Utilization of Non-Project Aid

433. **Shri K. Hajdar:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are carrying on bilateral discussions with the Consortium countries for better and quicker utilisation of the non-project aid; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) As a normal feature of our relationship with the members of