

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:247  
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006  
GROWTH IN POPULATION  
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

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

- (a) whether focused attention was paid to the demographically weaker States which were found to be the major contributor to population growth in the country;
- (b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to bring about decline in birth rate in those States; and
- (c) the impact of such measures in bringing down the birth rate in those States?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 247 FOR 8TH MARCH, 2006.

The Government has identified eight States viz. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand for special attention for healthcare services and for meeting the challenges of population stabilization. An Empowered Action Group(EAG) was constituted in March, 2001, in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare to give focused attention to these States. It served as an overarching mechanism to provide single window clearance to the Action Plans of these eight States. The EAG acted as a high-powered body, which facilitated preparation of area specific programmes to address the unmet needs of supplies, services, healthcare providers and health infrastructure in the eight States. An amount of Rs.250.00 crore was provided during the 10th Five-Year Plan for addressing the specific unmet needs of these States. Funds were released to these States for giving area specific focus keeping in view the objectives of the National Health & Maternal Population Policy for population stabilisation in the country. The EAG functioned up to March, 2005, whereafter it has been subsumed under the National Rural Health Mission(NRHM). These are special focus States under NRHM. For the period up to March, 2005, four special review meetings were convened wherein several recommendations were made to fulfil the healthcare needs of eight EAG States. The year-wise funds released to these States from 2001-2002 to 2004-2005 are as under:-

(Rs. in Lakhs)

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
2500.00	325.00	6954.03	16809.70

After the launch of NRHM in April 2005, more attention is being paid to these States to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective, reliable and quality primary health care, through creation of a cadre of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), improved hospital care measured through Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), decentralization of programme to district level to improve intra and inter-sectoral convergence and effective utilization of resources. Funds have also been released to all these States for selection and training of ASHA, untied funds at the rate of Rs.10,000/- per sub centre for all the sub centres for making ASHA and sub centres functional to optimal level and funds for up-gradation of CHCs to the level of Indian Public Health Standard @ Rs. 20 lakh per CHC for two CHCs per district. The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) taken up under the NRHM envisages providing quality services for meeting unmet demands such as free distribution of Condoms, IUD Insertions, Non-Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV), Sterilisation etc. with the objective of stabilising population growth in the country, especially in these high focus States.

Statement indicating slight reduction in Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in focus States, during the last few years, is annexed.

Annexure

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

S.No.	State	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	All India	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0
1.	Bihar#	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2
2.	Madhya	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.1

Pradesh\$	-						
3.	Orissa	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	
4.	Rajasthan	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	
5.	Uttar Pradesh@	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.4	

Source: SRS Estimates, RG, India

# Bihar TFR includes Jharkhand

\$ Madhya Pradesh TFR includes Chattisgarh

@ Uttar Pradesh TFR includes Uttaranchal