

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2020
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
MEETING OF NATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPULATION
Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

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

- (a) the date on which the last meeting of National Commission on Population was held;
- (b) whether any new formula for stabilization of population was evolved in that meeting;
- (c) if so, the points on which emphasis was given including the authority for its implementation;
- (d) whether the State Governments have been directed to address population stabilization through investment in health, education and empowerment; and
- (e) if so, the response of the State Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e) : The last meeting of the reconstituted National Commission on Population was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Mnster on 23rd July 2005. The following two major decisions were taken in the meeting :-

- (i) Conduct of an Annual Health Survey of all districts so that health indicators at district level are published, annually and are monitored and compared against benchmarks.
- (ii) Set up five groups of experts for studying the population profiles of the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa to identify weaknesses in the health delivery systems and to suggest measures that would be taken to improve the health and demographic status of the States.

As per the National Population Policy, 2000 the family planning programme is voluntary in nature and its focus is on simultaneously addressing the issues of child survival, maternal health and contraception while increasing outreach and coverage of a comprehensive package of reproductive and child health services. The Central Government in association with State Governments is implementing the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme as well as the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for achieving the goals of population stabilization. Proper implementation of the RCH programme and NRHM would bring about improvements in demographic scenario that would hasten the process of population stabilization. The State Governments have been advised to increase investments in health, education and other social sector programmes. The response from the States has been positive in this regard.