

[Translation]

**Lead Free Petrol**

331. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought the opinion of International experts on advantages and disadvantages of lead-free petrol;

(b) if so, whether there is possibility of increase in cancer cases on account of emission of poisonous fumes like Benzene from this petrol;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid such type of possibilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

**Population Growth**

332. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to enact any legal provisions to check the population growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the rate of increase in population during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) Birth control is being promoted on purely voluntary in the country. There is no proposal to bring an element of compulsion through legal enactments.

(d) The natural rate of growth of population in terms of the difference between Birth Rate and Death Rate during the last three years—year-wise is given below:-

Year	Growth Rate (%)
1995	1.93
1996	1.85
1997	1.83 (*)

(\*) figures provisional

**Hindi Consultative Committee**

333. SHRI PRABHUDAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Ministries which have not held more than two or a single meeting (s) of their Hindi Consultative Committee during 1997-98; and

(b) the arrangements made to ensure the regular meetings of Hindi consultative committees of all Ministries take place regularly and effectively?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) These Hindi Salahakar Samitis are as under :

1. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
2. Ministry of Defence (Defence Division)
3. Deptt. of Agriculture and Co-operation
4. Deptt. of Education
5. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
6. Ministry of Civil Aviation
7. Ministry of Law and Justice
8. Ministry of Railways
9. Ministry of Science and Technology and Deptt. of Ocean Development
10. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

(b) Hindi Salahakar Samitis have been constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of concerned Ministry/Deptt. for suggesting practical measures for compliance of Official Language Policy of Government and for progressive use of Hindi in Official work. These Committees are High Powered Committees and concerned Ministers convene its meeting as per their convenience. However, Deptt. of Official Language, from time to time has been requesting the concerned Ministries/Departments at higher levels to convene its meetings regularly.