

De-Congestion of cities

164. PROF P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to de-congest the cities and town in the country which are facing the serious problem of congestion and pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have prepared any perspective plan to save other cities and towns which are going to face this problem in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Urban Development is essentially the responsibility of the State Government. Each State has its own priority and programme of action as far as decongesting of cities and pollution prevention and are concerned. The Central Government also provides assistance in critical cases. The Centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) is one such scheme aimed to check the migration of the rural population to major metropolitan centres and cities and also to diffuse the economic growth patterns so as to provide reasonable living standards in small and medium towns. The scheme has been in operation since December, 1979. During the Sixth Five Year Plan, 235 towns of different states/Union Territories were covered and Central assistance amounting to Rs. 63.57 crores were released. During the Seventh Five Year Plan, 111 towns have been covered and Central assistance amounting to Rs. 64.08 crores has been released upto 31.3.1989. The Central Government set up the National Capital Region Planning Board in 1985 with the responsibility of preparing the Regional Plan for the development of the National Capital Region,

to coordinate and monitor its implementation and evolve harmonised policies for the control of land-uses and development of infrastructure in the region so as to avoid any haphazard development. The Board has prepared and notified the National Capital Region Plan 2001 aimed at a balanced and harmoniously developed Region.

(c) The Government of India is committed to the ideas of decongestion of cities and towns and also let the small and medium towns grow in a planned way.

The National Commission on Urbanisation which gave its report in August, 1988 has, inter-alia suggested various steps for keeping a check on congestion and pollution in various towns and cities. These suggestions have been kept in view while formulating the draft Working Group Report on Urban Development in the context of the preparation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Population Growth

165. PROF. P.J.KURIEN:
SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:

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

(a) the total population of country and the rate of growth at present;

(b) whether Government propose to take any new initiatives and preparing a perspective plan to bring about zero rate of growth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTHAY): (a) The project population of the country based on Medium estimates of the Expert Committee on Population Projections is 806.8 million as on 1st March, 1989.