

12.12 hrs.

# CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

## INCREASE IN POPULATION

SHRI H. K. L. Bhagat (East Delhi): I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

'The alarming increase in the population of the country as indicated by preliminary reports of 1981 census and the population control policy to be followed by the Government.'

(Interruptions)

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री (सैदपुर): अध्यक्ष जी, यह मामला . . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : शास्त्री जी, आप बैठ जाइये । . . . . (इयबधान)

आइये मेरी जगह बैठ जाइये तब पता लगे आपको ।

You come here I will vacate the seat for you. I do not have the facilities. How can I do it ?

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल (जयपुर) : अध्यक्ष जी, आपने टी०वी० पर परसों जो प्रोग्राम दिया था उस की इतना सभी सदस्यों को अगर आप दे देते और जो सदस्य इस कार्यक्रम में भाग लेते तो बहुत सारी बातें उन की समझ में आ जाती और फिर सदन में इतना झंझट नहीं होता ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्रुक्रिया में कैसे इतना करता ।

(Interruptions)\*

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बैठियें आप । Nothing is going on record. Shri H.K.L. Bhagat.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHAMARANAND) : Sir, The provisional population totals given in the Census of India, 1981, indicate that the total population of the country has increased from 548.1 million in 1971 to 683.8 million

in 1981, registering a decennial<sup>1</sup> growth rate of 24.75% in 1971—81 as against 24.80% in 1961—71. The detailed analysis is being undertaken by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India. When full details are received by the Government, the matter will be examined in depth to decide future policy implications.

The Government shares the anxiety of the House over the steady increase in population as revealed by the provisional population figures. Government have given very high priority to the population stabilisation programme which is one of the major objectives of the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85). The National Family Welfare Programme will be implemented through securing the change of attitudes of eligible couples by proper motivation, education and provision of adequate services with significant stress on the programmes for improving the health status of the mother and the child.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Just now, what the hon. Minister has said in regard to the population control policy of the Government, he has given some kind of an assurance that the Government is quite anxious and so on. I would very respectfully submit that this reply, as I would say, just a routine reply to one of the gravest problems that the country is facing.

I can quite understand his anxiety and the anxiety of the Government that because of the family planning programme measures, sterilisations done a couple of years ago, which was very good work, it was utilised as a propaganda against the then Government, which was our own party's Government, and I can quite understand, once bitten, twice shy, and, therefore, the too cautious approach of the Government. But to my mind, this too cautious approach of the Government is not called for in the interest of the country.

I feel, the figures, even the provisional figures, which have been brought before us are alarming indeed.

[Shri H. K. L. Bhagat]

It seems that all our estimates were wrong. Even the expert committee on population projection had given an estimate of 627 millions. But this has gone to 683 millions. These figures are still provisional. Kalinga and Assam figures are yet to be added to it. It means that this is going to be much more. I feel, we have added one Australia. My own feeling is that this is a national problem in the real sense of the term and I need not take much time in saying that all our work, all our development activity, is negated by this explosion of population growth. Therefore, this is a matter which must be taken much more seriously by the Government, by all political parties, by the religious, social and cultural organizations, by the voluntary organizations and by the people of India. I would like to know the reactions of the hon. Minister to the following suggestions which I am making to him.

I feel that, on this matter, Government should set up a National Population Control Council—I would like to know the Ministers' reaction to this—and it should be headed by the Prime Minister. This is a problem of top-most importance. Therefore, this Council should have representatives from all sections of the people. It should obviously, be a very powerful body and should meet from time to time to assess the situation and to see how we are progressing. I feel that this Council should be set up without delay. This matter should be given a greater importance. I feel strongly that the time has come when we should have family control, population control. No family should have more than three children, and this should be done through a legislative measure. A law should be passed in consultation with the people. I would even suggest that, if the Government wants, if it thinks necessary, even a referendum may be taken. Let the issue be posed to the people whether we should have this control through legislation or not. Then a legislation should be enacted

a family should have not more than three children. Until that is done, and this should be done quickly—I feel that this programme should be carried forward. I know that the Government, in the present situation is doing whatever it can. But that is highly inadequate. I think that the emphasis and attention which should be given to the rural areas are not being given. The emphasis has shifted to the urban areas. We should give more attention to the rural areas. Apart from the sterilisation programme, the other methods have been discouraged. The emphasis has been on sterilisation, but the other methods have been ignored. Along with sterilisation, the other methods should also be very much encouraged. Government should have a definite programme. There should be definite incentives and disincentives. Right from the Government to the people, particularly in the rural areas, something concrete should be done.

I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister how this Government propose to meet this challenge. In this, the whole nation can be taken into confidence. I am sure that the people of India, if the issue is posed to them, will definitely vote for family planning—even the poor people. I have seen even illiterate women saying that the programme was good, good work was done, and that it should be done much more. The only point is that Government might have some fears. I know that. It must shed off its fears and with courage come before the nation and take the necessary measures, so that we can go forward.

I would like to know the reactions of the hon. Minister to my suggestions.

**SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Jaipur) :** The hon. Member has suggested a ceiling of three children. Before the hon. Minister replies, may I know from him how many children he has? Is it not a fact that he has eight children? If it is so, how can this programme be successful?

MR. SPEAKER : How is Mr. Bhagat answerable for that ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I may tell him that I have only three children. But that is not because of me. Left to myself, I would have added. The credit goes to my wife. She has been very conscious right from the beginning.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप ने तो बढ़िया भोजन शाम का पक्का कर लिया ना ? और सतीश जी, फैमिली प्लानिंग के बिचार से पहले गलती कर बैठे होंगे ।

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने आप के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा । मैं ने तो इन के बारे में कहा है ।

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I must thank the hon. Members who have called the attention of the Government and the attention of the country through Parliament. I am grateful to them for having set the nation, not only the Parliament, think about the grave situation that is existing today ....

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I want to know your reactions to the questions and suggestions that I have put to you. Will you consider them ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I am coming to that. Before I reply to the various issues that the hon. Member has raised, I can say one thing. He has said that the population of Assam and Jammu & Kashmir have not been included. It is not correct. The projections of Assam and Jammu & Kashmir have been included in the present figures that are available. So let there not be any further alarm in the minds of the people that some- thing more is to be added from Jammu & Kashmir and Assam....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE (New Delhi) : But there has been no census operation in Assam.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : But projections have been taken care of. The hon. Member said that the Government is approaching this problem with, as he termed it, 'a too cautious approach'. The hon. Member has his own opinion about it. No doubt we are cautious in approaching this because it affects each family of this country, each couple of this country and this is more so because during 1977-80 the entire family planning programme was distorted, a wrong image given to the people, doubts were raised in the minds of the people and a very vital programme was doubted by the people of this country. A great damage has been done to the entire process of this country .....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE : By coercion.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Who is responsible ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I am very sorry, this was due to a false propaganda and there has been no basis at all that some excesses were done.

Sir, it is more than a year that we have come back to power and we have not received any instance of excesses done in the family planning programme. It was only a false propaganda that was made against this vital programme.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : They could get only a few cases in three years.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : May I appeal to these very people who wanted to grab power through this false propaganda now to come to the rescue of the nation because it is not only the responsibility of the Government but it is also the res-

[Shri B. Shankaranand]

ponsibility of each individual and each citizen of this country that the population rise is checked.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH :  
Vajpayee ji has put it in action.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर सब उनके पीछे चले, तो सारा काम ठीक हो जायेगा।

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The hon. Member has made some very good suggestions. I agree with him that this family welfare programme should be a national programme, it should cut across Party lines, it should cut across caste, communal and religious lines and everyone in this country should feel that this is the greatest danger that is casting its shadow before the entire developmental activities of this country. If the population grows in this fashion, all the Plans are going to be nullified. The Government is aware of these things and we are taking all possible action through motivational programme....

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Will you consider my suggestions ? You say they are good suggestions. Will you then consider them ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : This can be done only through motivation and health education and it cannot be seen through only by sterilisation. I agree with the hon. Member .....

Dr. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur) :  
Female literacy.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Female literacy and literacy as such has very intimate relation. That is what we have said. That has to be done through health education..

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : You were doing only sterilisation.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Please don't fall a prey to the propaganda.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Unfortunately, my Party was supporting you at that time. But, on this matter, when we protested, you went on denying all the reports which we were getting.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Because they were false.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They were not false...

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Then tell me.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE : Sir, I am prepared to prove on the floor of the House that coercion was used. It has been substantiated. (Interruptions)

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : All the allegations made by Mr. Vajpayee were disproved. Sir, when their Government was in power, they tried to prove them but they failed.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let us plan for the future.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The election results of both the Assemblies and the Parliament have disproved my friend's allegation..

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE : You adopt the same methods again. I challenge.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, that was the main plank of their propaganda against us even during the elections to the Parliament and the Assemblies and he knows what the results are.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE : You cannot dare to adopt it.

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :**  
Let us not go to any other thing.  
The very results have proved that  
these allegations are false... (*Interrup-*  
*tions*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** Order, please.

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :**  
The hon. Member has asked for a  
Population Council and he wants  
the Prime Minister to be its Chairman.  
This is a good suggestion. Of course,  
I cannot say anything on this Popula-  
tion Council as suggested by the  
hon. Member. But there is a well-  
laid out family welfare programme  
which is followed by both the Central  
and the State Governments.

[**DEPUTY SPEAKER** in the  
chair]

Sir, I agree with him that  
we have to make headway in  
the rural areas and at the moment  
we can think of only incentives  
and not dis-incentives in respect of  
the rural areas.

**श्री वृद्ध चन्द्र जैन :** (वाडवेर) उपाध्यक्ष  
महोदय, जी जनसंख्या के आंकड़े उपलब्ध  
हुए हैं उन से विषम स्थिति का पूरा तरह  
सपता लगता है। सन् 61-71 के बीच में  
जनसंख्या की वृद्धि 24.80 प्रतिशत थी  
जा कि 71-81 के बीच में 24.75 प्रतिशत  
रही। इस का मतलब यह है कि हम ने  
0.5 प्रतिशत की प्रगति की। यह प्रगति  
बहुत ही निराशाजनक है। अब मैं इस  
सम्बन्ध में प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ।

पहला प्रश्न मेरा यह है कि हमारे क्षेत्र  
राजस्थान में, मैं पूरे भारत की स्थिति के  
बारे में नहीं जानता, लेकिन हमारे यहां  
महिला दूरवां नसबन्दी बहुत ही सफल हुई  
है। इस के लिए महिलाएं बहुत बड़ी संख्या  
में आ रही हैं। उस के लिए वहां पर एक्सपर्ट्स  
तैयार नहीं हैं। गुजरात से हमें एक्सपर्ट्स

मंगाने पड़ते हैं जो बहुत हाई फीस चार्ज  
करते हैं। तो क्या गवर्नमेंट ने और हेल्थ  
डिपार्टमेंट ने इस के परिणामों के बारे में  
पूरी तरह से जांच कर ली है और इस  
कार्यक्रम को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए क्या स्वास्थ्य  
विभाग सक्रिय कदम उठाने के लिए तैयार  
है? क्या इस के एक्सपर्ट्स की जां ट्रेनिंग है  
उस का विस्तार करने के लिए वह तैयार है  
और इस कार्यक्रम को विशेष बल देने के लिए  
तैयार है?

दूसरा प्रश्न मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ—कैमिली  
प्लानिंग के अन्तर्गत जो मोडिबेशन का पाइंट  
आप ने रखा है इंसेंटिव के रूप में— ग्रामीण  
क्षेत्र के कार्याचारों को एलाटमेंट आफ  
लैंड में सुविधा देना, डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन आफ  
लैंड के अन्दर ईजी टर्म्स पर इंटरेस्ट देने की  
सुविधा देना, उन के लिए फ्री होउसिंग इट्स  
की व्यवस्था करना, इस सम्बन्ध में ठोस  
कदम उठाने के लिए क्या सरकार तैयार है  
और इस सम्बन्ध में राज्य सरकारों को  
निर्देश देने के लिए तैयार है?

तीसरा प्रश्न है—इस कार्यक्रम का  
प्रचार जो आन इंडिया रेडियो और दूर  
दर्शन के द्वारा होता है उसके अन्दर  
जां फिल्म डिवीजन की डाक्युमेंटरी फिल्म  
दिखायी जाती हैं और दूसरी जां सिनेमा की  
फिल्में दिखायी जाती हैं उन के हर एक  
के अन्दर इस परिवार नियोजन कार्यक्रम  
का अधिक से अधिक दिखाया जाय, इस  
सम्बन्ध में ठोस कदम उठाने के लिए क्या  
सरकार तैयार है? मैं नहीं मानता कि  
लैजिस्लेशन से यह काम होगा। हम प्रजातन्त्र  
के युग में रह रहे हैं और लैजिस्लेशन होगा तो  
वह भी एक फीस की चीज होगी, दूसरी  
पाटियां इस का फायदा उठावेंगी, इसलिए  
अगर लैजिस्लेशन हां तो इस के लिए  
सभी पाटियां तैयार हों, तभी जा कर  
यह लैजिस्लेशन बनाना चाहिए, अन्यथा हमें  
मोडिबेशन पर और समझाने पर ही जोर

### [श्री वृद्धि चन्द्र जैन]

देना चाहिए। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि लोगों को अधिक से अधिक समझाने के लिए और उस के द्वारा इस कार्यक्रम को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार तैयार है? सभी भाषाओं में इस के उपर किशुल्क साहित्य प्रकाशित कर के उस का प्रचार किया जाय, उन की सरल भाषा में इस का प्रकाशन किया जाय, और इस प्रकार से इस कार्यक्रम को आगे बढ़ाया जाय, क्या इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार कदम उठाने का प्रयास करेगी?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :  
Many suggestions have been made by him.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND:  
Yes, Sir. It is encouraging to hear from the hon. Member that more women are forthcoming in Rajasthan for this programme. He has suggested employment of more trained personnel in this regard. I may tell the House that there are already two teams in Rajasthan who are trained in this Family Planning Programme through Laparoscopic machines. A third team is being trained to be sent to Rajasthan. The State Governments and the Central Government would consider the hon. Member's suggestions very sympathetically. The hon. Member made a suggestion that Family Planning Programmes and their importance may be screened and shown to the people through films through various cinema houses. Sir, this is a very good suggestion. Government would consider housing films, may be feature films, documentaries etc. in this regard. We can show these programmes and the importance of this scheme to the people of the country through films.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :  
Shri K.P. Singh Deo—absent.  
Ram Singh Yadav.

श्री राम सिंह मादव (ग्रलवर) मान्य-  
वर, आज देश की आबादी 68,30,10,051 अनुमानित है और ऐसा अनुमान है कि यदि आबादी की यही विधास दर रही तो आगे आने वाले बीस वर्षों में इस देश की आबादी बढ़ कर 95 करोड़ हो जाएगी। आप जानते ही हैं कि आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार आज भी आबादी का 55 प्रतिशत भाग गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे है। अभी जैसा मंत्री जी ने बतलाया है कि आबादी की इस विधास गति को देखते हुए छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में जो प्रस्तावित है उस में जो भी लक्ष्य हैं, चाहे मेडिकल एड के बारे में, चाहे एजुकेशन के बारे में, चाहे दूसरी सामाजिक सुविधाओं के बारे में या रोजगार के बारे में वह पर्याप्त नहीं रहेंगे। आज यह बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा राष्ट्र के सामने है। अभी जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने कहा यह मुद्दा किसी पार्टी विशेष, धर्म या सम्प्रदाय नहीं बल्कि पूरे राष्ट्र के सामने है। इस देश के राजनीतिज्ञ, प्रशासक, नविल सर्वेन्ट्स अथवा जो भी इस देश के नागरिक हैं उन सभी के सामने आज यह एक उच्चतम समस्या है। इस के निदान के लिए जब तक हम प्रभावशाली कदम नहीं उठाएंगे, कोई प्रभावी कानून नहीं बनायेंगे तब तक कोई विशेष असर नहीं होगा।

मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस सदन के एक माननीय सदस्य जोकि एक पार्टी के एक बड़े नेता हैं, काजपरी जी, वे 1975 ने 1977 के दौरान फेमिली प्लानिंग के सम्बन्ध में जो कुछ हुआ उसकी बर्तना कर रहे थे लेकिन मैं उनसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आपकी पार्टी की पार्लामेन्ट सत्रस्थान में 1977 में क्या रही जबकि पार्लामेन्ट के चुनाव हो गए थे और असेम्बली चुनावों में आपकी सरकार को हार दिखाई दे रही थी? आपकी पार्टी ने क्या प्रोपेण्डा किया था? फरवरी मार्च के महीने में आपकी तरफ से यह प्रचार किया

गया कि इन्दिरा गांधी की सरकार केन्द्र में शायम हो चुकी है इसलिए अवर्द्धस्ती नसबन्दी प्रोग्राम लागू करना चाहती है। जब राजनीतिक दल इस प्रकार का झूठा प्रचार करके जनता में भय पैदा करना चाहते हैं वे शहर आज यहां पर कहें कि गलतियां हुईं तो वह गलत है। वास्तव में 1975 से 1977 के दौरान श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी के नेतृत्व में हमारी सरकार ने इस राष्ट्रीय प्रोग्राम को लागू करने का जो बीड़ा उठाया था उसका गलत प्रचार करके उसका नाजायज फायदा उठाकर दो-इस साल के लिए ये लोग सरकार में आ गए थे उसी प्रकार से आज फिर देश की जनता को गुमराह करना चाहते हैं लेकिन मैं बता देना चाहता हूं कि आज जनता को गुमराह करने की कोई गुंजायश नहीं है। इसमें देश को बहुत बड़ा नुकसान हुआ है।

मैं अब माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि 1975-77 तक कितने आप-रेशन हुए और 1977-80 तक जनता पार्टी की हुकूमत में कितने आपरेशन हुए? उसमें डाउन-फाल होने का क्या कारण था? इस बारे में अभी विरोधी दल के सदस्य अपनी दलील दे रहे थे, मैं उनसे पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या वे वास्तव में ईमानदारी के साथ इस प्रोग्राम को तैयार करने के लिए तैयार हैं? जैसा कि अभी श्री भगत जी ने कहा कि एक टेबल पर बैठकर, एक वाउन्सिल बनाकर के, उस में हम इस मुद्दे को आगे ले चलने के लिए विचार करें।

मान्यवर, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि आपने देखा है कि सेंसस रिपोर्ट के आधार पर सबसे बड़ा एलायिंग फॅक्टर यह है कि हमारी जितनी आबादी बढ़ी है, उसमें ज्यादा संख्या गरीब लोगों की है।

हमारे देश की पहले ही 60 प्रतिशत आबादी गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे जीवन व्यतीत करती है। क्या आपने कभी इस बात को गम्भीरता से सोचा है कि उन लोगों को रोजगार देने के लिए, उन लोगों को मैडिकल-एड देने के लिए, उन लोगों को शिक्षा देने के लिए, आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं? हमारी बहुत सी मेट्रोपोलिटन सिटीज, जैसे कलकत्ता, बम्बई, दिल्ली आदि, उनकी आबादी में बेहद वृद्धि हुई है। दिल्ली की आबादी पिछले दस साल के अन्दर 40 लाख से 62 लाख हो गई है। यदि विकास की दर इसी प्रकार रही तो ये शहर स्लम सिटीज हो जायेंगे, और आप कोई व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकेंगे। ऐसी स्थिति में आपको इन बड़े शहरों के लिए पानी की व्यवस्था करनी होगी, मैडिकल फैसिलिटीज की व्यवस्था करनी होगी, एजुकेशन की व्यवस्था करनी होगी और इसके साथ साथ रोजगार के माध्यम मुहैया करने पड़ेंगे—क्या आपने कभी इस बात को गम्भीरता से सोचा है? सेंसस रिपोर्ट आने के बाद एक बहुत बड़ा सवाल आपके सामने आया है, बहुत बड़ा सवाल इस देश के सामने आया है और वह सवाल यह है कि जिस तरह से आबादी बढ़ती जा रही है, खास तौर से जो ग्राम-मैनिजबल सिटीज हो चुकी हैं, उनको मैडिकल आदि की सुविधायें और दूसरी सुविधायें देने के बारे में यदि आप बतायें, तो मैं आपका अनुग्रहीत होऊंगा?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, from the figures I can say that for the first time, during 1971-1981, the growth rate of the population of this country during this decade, has been checked. If you see the various Census figures, you will find that from 1901 to 1911 and from 1921 continuously till 1971, there was an increasing growth rate of population in this country. In 1971,



[Shri B. Shankaranand]

the percentage of growth rate was 24.8. And now the growth rate is not only checked but it has been brought down by 0.01 and it is 24.7 %. This time this decade growth rate percentage-wise has been checked. But since the total birth rate and the death rate had also reduced, the population has increased. Another encouraging feature is that the birth rate in the female population has not gone down, the ratio between males and females has also changed. The female population is less than the male population. It very encouraging because the females produce children. This is the very first time that the number of females has not come down. (Interruptions) I may tell you that since the inception of the Family Planning Programme, a total of about 34 million sterilisations, about 8.6 million I.U.D. insertions have been done. Of these 25 million sterilisations and over 5 million I.U.D. insertions were done during the decade 1971-81. Besides this big increase in performance in these two family planning methods, the number of conventional contraceptive users which had stood at less than 2 million in 1970-71 is reaching almost 4 million.

As a result of these measures, about 43 million births are estimated to have been averted of these 37 million were averted during the decade 1971-81 alone. I am telling all this because my hon. friend wanted to know what the Family Welfare Programme is doing.

These efforts have curtailed the growth of population which have been much higher ; another 30 millions persons would have been added and the growth rate could have been of the order of 30% as against 24.8% brought out by the 1981 census.

Birth rate which stood at around 42 in the decade 1961-71 (centred at 1965-66) has come down to

around 37 for the decade 1971-81 (centred at 1976-77). While the birth rate has come down simultaneously, the death rate has also come down from 19 during the decade 1961-71 to around 15 during the decade 1971-81. The fall of death rate has also contributed to a larger growth rate, but this fall in death rate has also been largely due to measures taken in regard to the improvement of the health of the people by the Government.

A notable feature of the growth rate of population in this decade is that this has been arrested for the first time, as I said, during the last decades since 1921. In fact, out of 31 States and Union Territories, 19 have registered a decline in the growth rate.

It has to be recognised that had it not been for the good work done in the years 1971-76, the population in 1981 might have been much bigger. Another factor is that consequent on improved health facilities, the expectation of life has increased and with fall in the death rate, the net growth of population has increased. The maternal and child health programmes have also shown improvement in the decade 1971-81 having favourable effect on maternal and infant mortality.

All these lead to the conclusion that the national Family Welfare programme has to be further energised and the coverage steadily expanded. For this the full support of all sections, as I have said, irrespective of caste, creed, religion, sex or political party, is needed. I would, therefore, appeal to all sections of the House to encourage this programme and make it a national movement and help the country.



Lastly, an hon. Member from opposite made a personal reference against me. In this regard, I can only tell the House that my last child is fifteen years old.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : But how many have you ?

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI : You should collect information about your colleagues also.

12.45 hrs.

PETITION *RE* REMUNERATIVE PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, REDUCTION IN PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS, ETC.

SHRI DEVI LAL (Sonepat) : I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Ranjit Singh and others regarding remunerative prices for agricultural produce, reduction in prices of agricultural inputs, introduction of crop and animal insurance scheme, revision of minimum wages, provision of houses for agricultural workers, supply of essential commodities through public distribution system, implementation of rural employment schemes, replacement of Land Acquisition Act in the light of experience and implementation of land reforms.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, matters under Rule 377.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh) : Sir, in support of this petition, more than ten lakh peasants have come from all over the country. We had invited the hon. Speaker.....  
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It has nothing to do with this petition. Please do not record.

Now, matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Alleged closure of industries due to cancellation of cake coal allotment.

श्री शिव कुमार सिंह ठाकुर (खण्डवा) : मेरे निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र में बुरहानपुर एक ऐसा औद्योगिक केन्द्र है जिसमें 15000 पावर-लूम, एक वॉलिंग (कॉम्पैक्ट) मिल, एक स्पिनिंग मिल, 36 तारविजिंग यूनिट, 4 कलेंडरिंग ब्लॉकिंग ड्राजिंग यूनिट हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त बुरहानपुर खण्डवा में अन्य कई बड़े उद्योग कार्यरत हैं। इन्हें संचालित करने के लिए केक कोल की बड़ी मात्रा में आवश्यकता होती है।

कोल इंडिया के माध्यम से राज्य शासन की रिकमंडेशन पर केक कोल उपरोक्त उद्योगों को सप्लाई किया जाता है।

कोल अलाटमेंट आफिसर नागपुर द्वारा खण्डवा जिले के बुरहानपुर एवं खण्डवा नगर के उद्योगों का जनवरी एवं फरवरी 1981 को अलाटमेंट कैंसल कर दिया गया है।

जिले में बिजली की भी सप्लाई में काफी कमी हो गई है। मजदूरों में बेकारी फैल रही है। उद्योग भी घाटा उठा रहे हैं। शासन शीघ्र जनवरी एवं फरवरी 81 का अलाटमेंट दे एवं अलाटमेंट में वृद्धि किया जाना भी आवश्यक है एवं भविष्य में भी रेग्युलर सप्लाई मिले यह मैं उर्जा मंत्री से तथा केन्द्रीय शासन से प्रार्थना करता हूँ।

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL CAPITAL REGIONAL PLAN

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Big cities the world over are exploding with the pressure of their own magnetic pull. It is estimated that about 75,000 people are leaving the rural areas everyday to migrate to towns and cities.

Delhi, the national capital, has also been subject to the intense strain of rapid urbanisation like Bombay