

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 09.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
POPULATION GROWTH .

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SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY

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

- (a) whether people have started feeling concerned about population stability in the country;
- (b) the steps taken by Government so far to create awareness among people;
- (c) whether religious sentiments impede in the success of this programme; and
- (d) if so, the measures being contemplated by Government to tackle the same?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) The District Level Household Survey III (2007-08), conducted by International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, clearly shows a strong inclination for adoption of small family norm in the country with as many as 63.3% of women with 2 children wanting no more children.

(b) A comprehensive mass media campaign to create awareness about the benefits of small families to the people through Electronic and Print media, has been undertaken. Measures are being taken to increase female literacy as States where the rate of female literacy is high are seen to have a low fertility rate.

Population stabilization is also one of the objectives of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched in April, 2005. It gives a thrust on reduction of infant mortality, maternal mortality and fertility rate and seeks to elicit large scale community participation. The new initiative of NRHM to engage ASHA in every village has positively contributed towards households seeking health and family planning services. ASHAs who serve as the link between community and the health system have strengthened the public awareness campaign for family planning services. The JSK Call Centre on Reproductive, Family Planning and Child Health provides authentic information on issues related to reproductive and child health.

(c) & (d) : There are no evidence based inputs on this. However, the effort is to involve people's representatives as well as religious leaders in generating awareness on population stabilization programme.