

Population and Family Welfare

21. An enhanced outlay of Rs.2489 crore has been provided for various programmes of Family Welfare in 1998-99 (BE) as compared to Rs.1829 crore in 1997-98 (RE) registering an increase of 36 per cent. Through various on-going family welfare programmes, government has been able to achieve a decline in fertility rate from 4.5 in 1981 to 3.5 in 1995. The crude birth rate (CBR) declined from 33.9 per thousand population in 1981 to 27.2 in 1997. The crude death rate (CDR) also declined from 12.5 to 8.9 per thousand population over the same period. As a result, the natural rate of growth of population further declined to 1.83 per cent in 1997 compared to 1.85 in 1996. The Eighth Plan target of CBR of 26 has been achieved by major states, except the States of Assam, Bihar, Haryana,

Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

22. The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme has been introduced during the Ninth Plan. Under the RCH Programme, several new schemes for improving quality and coverage of services are under implementation. The replacement of the system of setting contraceptive targets from above by decentralised planning based on community needs assessment has been well received in all parts of the country.

23. The Pulse Polio Immunisation has been continued for the fourth year during 1998-99 with the objective of eradicating polio. Two supplemental doses of oral polio vaccine were administered on 6.12.1998 and on 17.1.1999.