

Population and Family Welfare

10.23 The main objective of the Family Welfare programme is to stabilise population and improve quality of life. Towards this end the broad-basing of family welfare programme became more explicit with the inclusion of Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) for vaccine preventable diseases, oral re-hydration therapy for diarrhea and dehydration and the Safe Motherhood Programme. Introduction of a Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH) approach to stabilise population in October, 1997 led to several new schemes for improving quality and coverage of welfare services. Child survival, safe motherhood, control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) and Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI) are some of the welfare measures to improve quality and coverage of health care for women children and adolescent.

1.24 To achieve the goal of zero incidence of polio by the end of 2000, the number of rounds of pulse polio immunisation has been increased to four throughout the country in 1999-2000 as against two in the previous years. Two additional rounds of Polio immunisation in eight selected states will also be undertaken during 1999-2000.

10.25 The country achieved a decline in the total fertility rate from 6 in 1951 to 3.3 in 1997. The birth rate declined from 33.9 in 1981 to 26.4 per thousand population in 1998 and the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) declined from 110 in 1981 to 72 per thousand live births in 1998. In spite of the steep fall in death rate from 27.4 in 1951 to 9 per thousand population in 1998, the average annual growth rate of population which had been steadily increasing from 1.25 per cent in 1941-51 to 2.22 per cent in 1971-81, came down to 2.14 per cent in 1981-91. The latest available Sample Registration System (SRS) estimates indicate a natural increase of 1.74 per cent in 1998. It may, however, be

mentioned that if the averted births had taken place during 1981-91, the growth rate of population could have been 2.71 per cent per annum as against 2.14 per cent as enumerated in the census.

10.26 Large size of the population in the reproductive age group is estimated to contribute 60 per cent of population growth followed by 20 per cent due to unmet needs of contraception. The balance 20 per cent of growth is because of higher desired fertility due to prevailing high IMR. Latest estimates suggest that 330 million people will be added to the Indian population in the next 20-year period.

10.27 A sum of Rs.2920 crore has been provided for various programmes of Family Welfare in central budget of 1999-2000 as compared to Rs. 2253 crore during 1998-99 (RE), registering an increase of about 30 per cent. The trends in vital statistics of the family welfare programmes since its inception are given in Box 10.1.

BOX 10.1				
Trends in Vital Statistics				
Parameter	1951	1981	1991	Current Levels
● Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	39.9	33.9 (SRS)	29.5 (SRS)	26.4 (SRS98)
● Total Fertility Rate	6.0	4.5 (SRS)	3.6 (SRS)	3.3 (SRS97)
● Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live birth)	146	110 (SRS)	80 (SRS)	72 (SRS 98)
● Child Mortality Rate (0-4 yrs per thousand children)	57.3 1972	39.1 1982	26.5 (SRS)	23.9 (SRS 1996)
● Couple Protection Rate (%)	10.4 (1971)	22.8	44.1	44.0 (31-3-99)
● Cumulative Number of Birth Averted (in million)	0.04 (1971)	44.19	130.4	242 (31-3-99)
● Expectation of life at birth (in year)	(M) 37.2 (F) 36.2	54.1 54.7	60.6 61.7 (1991-1996)	62.36 63.99 (1996-2001) (Projected)