

i) the country needs a comprehensive law for forced control. Do you agree with this view? Comment.

Recently, introduced a private members bill Loksabha aimed at population control in India. Stating that population rise is the most significant reason for India's slow rate of development. And the bill urges for an immediate need for population control.

India was among first nations to address its population problem as early as 1951, raising awareness about ills of overpopulation. While there has been a significant rise in India's population, there has also been a sharp decline in total fertility rate (TFR). In 1950, the TFR was around 5.9% and now 2% as (NFHS-5) data. And also a steep decline after 1970's indicates an inversely proportional relationship between economic prosperity and the fertility rate.

Political debate on overpopulation

The debate around the need for population control has been greatly politicised in India. Such sensitive issue is often reduced to a petty religious issue, and, ultimately the subject of development suffers.

Nearly six months before the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, UP govt came up with a proposed draft bill i.e. Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilisation and Welfare) Bill, 2021. Population is a grave concern in the Hindi heartland, especially Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, but the suggestions were more political than practical.

for instance Bill said that no government job would be offered to couples with more than two children. However there was no clarification about what would happen to a person who had third child after being a government job. And a person with two children remarried and had a third child.

On the occasion of population control fortnight Mr. Adityanath said "It should not happen that the speed of population growth or percentage of some community is high answers and we stabilize the population of Muslimwasi (native) through awareness or enforcement. It perceived that it is a minority that is responsible for population burst."

Data shows on over population

NFHS-5 data indicates that although the fertility rate of muslims is higher than Hindus, the gap between two shrunk substantially. In 1992-93 gap was 1.1. Now it reduced to 0.35. Comparison of Census data on average fertility rate is in sight.

- UP, muslim population 20%, the TFR declined from 5.8% in 1981 to 2.7% in 2011
 - Assam, muslim population 30%, the TFR fell from 4.5% in 1981 to 1.9% in 2011
 - J&K, a muslim majority, the TFR fell from 4.5% in 1981 to 1.4% in 2011
- The above data shows muslim adopted better family planning than Hindus

Way forward

As India's TFR 2.7, doesn't need a law for forced population control, can have very dangerous consequences. It can create gender imbalance. It doesn't show promising results in China, the one child policy. forced control method impact the rate of ageing and leads rise in population of older people and decline in the young population like Japan. In other way focus should be on strengthening public health infrastructure & raising awareness.