

Population growth rate to be kept at 1.7 p.c.

Dr. Aftabuzzaman Minister of State for Health, Population Control and Family Planning said in Dacca on Monday that government was determined to confine the population growth rate 1.7 per cent by the end of the Second-Five-Year Plan, reports BSS.

He pointed that according to the last population census, the present growth rate was 2.36 per cent.

Talking to newsmen at his office in Dacca on Monday morning, the Minister said that he was confident that the target would be achieved so far as the present trend indicated.

He said the married couples had been showing keen interest in the Family Planning programmes initiated by the government.

Dr. Aftabuzzaman said that emphasis has been given on the sterilisation method which he said could help bring down the growth rate substantially. He said that 2 lakh 58 thousand women were sterilised during 1980-81 period which was 60 per cent of the target set for the year.

The target set for 1981-82 was 5 lakh 52 thousand the Minister said. He pointed out that the targets were generally set for a bigger number so that the field workers and other people associated with the programme could motivate more women, even if we could

achieve 3 lakh, that is enough for us he added.

In this regard, the Minister also said that the other methods like Intra Uterine Device (IUD), popularly known as coils, were being accepted now. He said efforts were being made to popularise this method as it was the most effective one after sterilisation.

Dr. Aftabuzzaman said, during the first four months (July-October) of 1981-82, a total of 73,811 women accepted sterilisation method. The total figure during 1980-81 was 2 lakh 58 thousand 492 while in 1979-80 the figure was 1

Population

(Continued from page 1)

lakh 98 thousand 782.

In 1980-81 41,629 women adopted IUD method. The figure during 1979-80 was 21,801.

The oral pills distributed during 1980-81 totalled 81,03,384 while in 1979-80 the figure was 62,27,691.

About condoms the Minister said during 1980-81 a total of 8,70,39,183 pieces were distributed while the figure during 1979-80 was 5,85,08,612.

The Minister said that Family Welfare Centres were being constructed in all the thanas of the country and by the end of 1982 about one thirds of the thanas would be covered. The centres would guide the couples not only the Family Planning methods but would also help mothers to take proper care about their own health as well as their children he said.