

In India, for instance, successive governments have addressed the population issue exactly the way the United Nations has told them to. Having the distinction of being the first country in the world to have an official family planning program, India launched the National Family Welfare Program in 1951. However, a decade later, the year India's census was taken, it was noted that the population had gone up by 22% in 10 years. The World Bank and United Nations sent teams subsequently to bolster the sagging morale of the Indian leaders, and put out the big lie in printed reports: "A major breakthrough in the FP [family planning] program is now in sight with the recent acceptance of the government of India of the intrauterine device (IUD), the loop, as a contraceptive method to be offered after various successful trials in India and some other countries."

The government started pumping more into the program. While the expenditure on family planning was 250 million rupees in the Third Plan (1962-66) overall; Rs. 139 million was spent in 1966-67 alone, and Rs. 265 million in the next year. The following plan saw a fourfold increase in the budget allocation for the family planning program. Meanwhile, the IUD campaign turned out to be a sordid one, causing more health problems than were either imagined or than the bureaucrats were prepared for. As a result, the Family Welfare Department's own statistics show a steady decline in IUD insertions over the years.

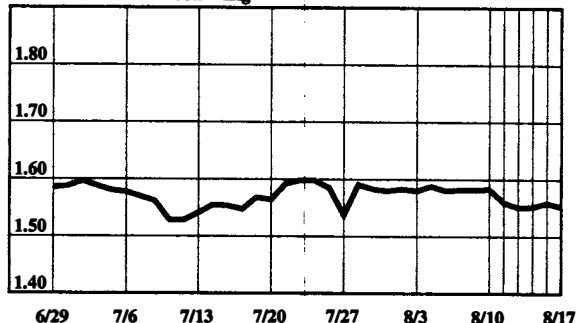
More recently, the introduction into India of Depo Provera, the injectible contraceptive for women, by its manufacturer Upjohn, has created a ruckus. The contraceptive, approved by the Drug Controller of India for introduction onto the Indian market, has come under suspicion elsewhere. Opponents of the drug claim that its regular use, especially by women under 35, carries the risk of making women more susceptible to cancer, including to breast cancer. They also point out that "informed choice," apparently a campaign of the contraceptive manufacturers and regulators, has little meaning in the Indian context, where almost 60% of all women are illiterate. They claim that the situation is thus rife for the abuse of Depo Provera in almost the same way that the IUD program went awry in the 1960s-1980s.

Such failures have not dampened the family planning groups, and there is little doubt that the huge monetary interests that control them cannot and will not simply give up. The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) is now preparing a report, to be submitted to the government, on the validity of introducing Norplant, a long-term implant for women that has come under serious scrutiny in the United States, for instance. In reality, however, government officials had already made the decision to introduce Norplant long before the report could be ready. The Health Ministry has already come out with expensive, colorful, glossy brochures on Norplant, hailing the implant as the new miracle contraceptive, the dream solution to all contraception problems faced by women.

## Currency Rates

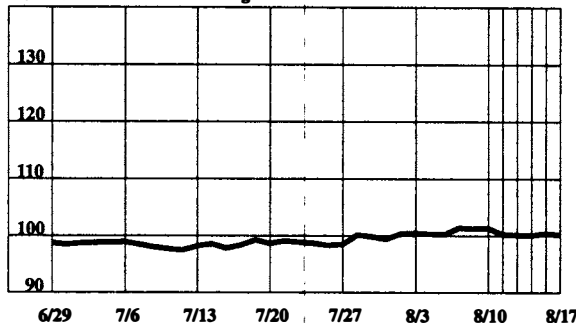
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



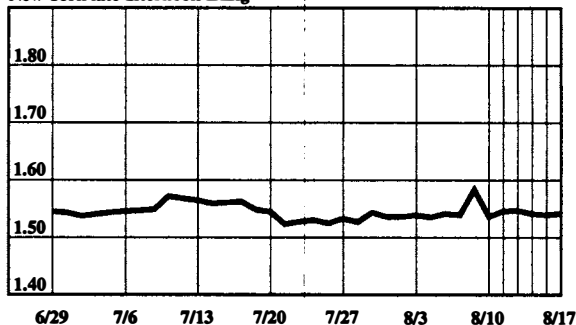
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

