

Q.2: Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title: (20)

One of the most ominous and discreditable symptoms of the want of candour in present-day sociology is the deliberate neglect of the population question. It is, or should be, transparently clear that, if the state is resolved, on humanitarian grounds, to inhibit the operation of natural selection, some rational regulation of population, both as regards quality and quantity, is imperatively necessary. There is no self-acting adjustment, apart from starvation, of numbers to the means of subsistence. If all natural checks are removed, a population in advance of the optimum number will be produced and maintained at the cost of a reduction in the standard of living. When this pressure begins to be felt, that section of the population which is capable of reflection and which has a standard of living which may be lost will voluntarily restrict its numbers, even to the point of failing to replace death by an equivalent number of new births; while the underworld, which always exists in every civilized society, the failure and misfits and derelicts, moral and physical will exercise no restraint and will be a constantly increasing drain upon the national resources. The population will thus be recruited in a very undue proportion by those strata of society which do not possess the qualities of useful citizens.

The importance of the problem would seem to be sufficiently obvious. But politicians know that the subject is unpopular. The urban have no votes. Employers are like a surplus of labour, which can be drawn upon when trade is good. Militarists want as much food for powder as they can get. Revolutionists instinctively oppose any real remedy for social evils; they know that every unwanted child is a potential insurgent. All three can appeal to a Quasi-Religious prejudice, resting apparently on the ancient theory of natural rights which were supposed to include the right of unlimited procreation. This objection is now chiefly urged by celibate or childless priests; but it is held with such fanatical vehemence that the fear of losing the votes which they control is a welcome excuse for the baser sort of politicians to shelve the subject as inopportune. The socialist calculation is probably erroneous; for experience has shown that it is aspiration, not desperation, that makes revolutions.

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The Rising Population

The rising question of increase in population faced a deliberate neglect. The reason is ambiguous and if the neglect is based on humanitarian ground. Then the idea of natural selection must also give importance to quality and quantity of population. However, the removal of natural checks favoured the more production while the maintenance of huge population caused deduction in living standards. Meanwhile, the portion of society which lives standard life, they voluntarily restrict the number of members. Whereas, the underworld population is constantly increasing and unfortunately this portion lacked qualities of being useful citizens. No doubt, the problem is significant but for politicians it is an unpopular subject. The theory of natural selection emphasized the right of unlimited procreation and it has successfully appealed employers, militants and revolutionist. Hence, ironically this theory has been a tool for politicians to cooperate with their fear of losing the voters.

Words in Precis = 146
Words in Passage = 400