

(c) the names of States where the coverage of rural area i.e. the percentage of people, has shown a decline during the last two years and the steps proposed to strengthen the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI KONDAJJI BASAPPA): (a) The States of Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal during 1972-73 and the States of Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh during 1973-74 have failed to utilise fully the central assistance for family planning during these year. Further details are given in statement I laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No. LT-6684/74].

(b) Only the States of Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa, Manipur and Meghalaya have shown decline in the total number of family planning acceptors during the year 1972-73 as compared to the year 1971-72. The information received for the year 1973-74 (April, 1973 to January, 1974) is provisional and incomplete. However, on the basis of available information all the States excepting Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya and Tripura have shown some decline in terms of total acceptors.

Apart from some variations in acceptance of family planning in various States arising out of socio-economic differences, lack of sufficient inputs and communication facilities etc, the main reasons responsible for the poor performance in family planning particularly during the year 1973-74 are discontinuation of mass vasectomy camps with higher incentive money and uncertainty of the budget provision in the earlier part of the year.

(c) The State-wise complete information regarding rural/urban break-up of family planning statistics is not available from all the States for the years 1972-73 and 1973-74. However, on the basis of available information, the States of Gujarat and Madhya

Pradesh have shown slightly poorer performance in rural areas during the last two years. A number of steps being taken to achieve better results are given in the statement Laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See. No LT-6684/74].

Engineering Industry hit by shortage of Steel

6400. **SHRI MARTAND SINGH** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the engineering industry is severely hit by the shortage of steel and other non-ferrous metals,

(b) if so, the names of such States in which major industries have been affected, and

(c) the efforts made by Government to ensure adequate supplies of the raw materials to these industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) to (c) The availability has been short of demand in respect of several categories of steel and many consuming sectors in the country may be facing the problem of inadequacy in supply. The steps taken to meet this situation include efforts to increase indigenous production by technological improvements, better industrial relations, improved maintenance etc. a fairly liberal import policy, particularly in respect of categories in short supply; regulation of exports and streamlining of the distribution system.

As regards non-ferrous metals, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.