

Rural Sanitation and Public Distribution System providing for infrastructure development and Human Resource Development of the rural population is also being implemented.

(c) As a result of implementation of various development and poverty alleviation programmes, the incidence of rural poverty has declined from 51.2% in 1977-78 to 33.4% in 1987-88 as per findings of NSSO Surveys. At the same time, considerable progress has also been made in achieving the objectives laid down under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). Some of the achievements are given below:

- (i) As on 1-4-1990, there were 1,30,876 sub-centres, 20,587 Primary Health Centres and 2,048 Community Health Centres in the country.
- (ii) Rural birth rate and death rate have fallen down to 32.0 and 11.1 respectively in 1989 (Prov) as against 34.3 and 13.00 respectively during 1981-85.
- (iii) Infant Mortality rate in rural areas has gone down to 98 in 1989 (Prov) from 138 in 1971.
- (iv) Expectation of life at birth has gone up to 58.1 and 59.1 for 'Male' and 'Female' respectively in 1989 (Prov) from 32.45 and 31.66 respectively during 1941-51.
- (v) Off-take of foodgrains under 'Public Distribution System' has gone up from 1.64 Million Tonnes in 1955 to 16.03 Million Tonnes during 1990-91.
- (vi) Literacy rate is up from 16.67% in 1951 to 52.1% in 1991.
- (vii) Over 65% of villages with population of 1000-1500 and over 89% of villages with population over 1500 have been connected by roads.
- (viii) By the end of Seventh Plan, 87% of rural population was covered by drinking water supply as against 54% at the end of Sixth Plan.

Supply of Fertilisers to Karnataka

2091. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government for providing fertilisers to the State;

(b) the total fertilisers supplied to the Karnataka State during 1989-90 and 1990-91 and the actual demand made by the State; and

(c) the steps being taken to meet the demand of the Karnataka state for fertilisers in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total availability of fertilisers in Karnataka during the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 vis-a-vis assessed demand is given below:

	(Nutrients in lakh tonnes)	
	Assessed demand	Availability
1989-90	8.26	10.02
1990-91	8.65	9.75

(c) The fertiliser requirement of the state is being met fully.

Foreign Exchange Crunch in Public Sector Undertakings of Karnataka

2092. SHRIMATI BHASAVA RAJESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector undertakings in Karnataka which are in trouble on account of non-availability of foreign exchange.

(b) whether these public sector undertakings may not get foreign supplies due to foreign exchange crunch; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?