

The Natural Growth Rate of Population is obtained as difference between birth and death rates as available from Sample Registration System (SRS) of Registrar General, India. The latest provisional estimates of natural growth rate at national level for the year 1988 is 2.04%.

(b) and (c). To keep the population growth in the country within the manageable limits, we have a well-defined strategy which lay emphasis on improving quality of services, enhancing child survival rates through Universal Immunisation Programme, Intensifying population education, enhancing community participation, adopting improved communication approaches and involving voluntary organisations. Besides, reinforcement of training and retraining personnel at the grassroot level, establishing and strengthening linkages and improvement of women's status and adoption of area intensive approach are some of the initiatives being considered part of the Eighth Plan strategy.

#### **Low cost Housing Technology**

166. PROF. P.J.KURIEN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the research and developmental efforts made in developing low cost housing technology have produced the desired results;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to propagate this technology?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Significant contributions of Research & Development in low cost housing technology have primarily been in the areas of planning, design, building foundations, build-

ing materials, energy conservation, functional and thermal efficiency and fire safety in buildings both for rural and urban housing situations.

(c) Governments both at the Centre and States have undertaken a number of measures to propagate the results of research on low cost building materials and technologies. Some of the notable steps in this connection are : (i) National Buildings Organisation is promoting the low cost materials and technologies through its Regional Housing Development Centres (ii) HUDCO is extending financial support to the building materials units producing innovative and low cost materials and components using agriculture and industrial wastes etc. (iii) The National Housing Policy has made several recommendations for giving fiscal incentives to the manufacturers of building materials based on use of agricultural and industrial wastes. Government has exempted fly ash bricks containing more than 50% fly ash from Central Excise duty for a period of two years. (iv) The network of building centres sponsored by central Government is expected to transfer low cost technology, to impart training to workman and to market the low cost building components (v) The National Housing Policy envisages that 10% of the housing units taken up for construction by every public agency incorporate the tested results of R & D.

#### **Entry of Multinational Companies in Food Processing Sector**

167. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to reconsider their policy regarding entry of multinational companies in the field of food processing industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?