

1	2	3	4
7	Jammu & Kashmir . . . . .	40,094	11,953
8	Karnataka . . . . .	231,757	102,753
9	Kerala . . . . .	156,075	60,500
10	Madhya Pradesh . . . . .	272,337	88,611
11	Maharashtra . . . . .	591,310	387,491
12	Manipur . . . . .	8,360*	3,371*
13	Meghalaya . . . . .	5,580*	2,637*
14	Nagaland . . . . .	3,795*	1,777*
15	Orissa . . . . .	77,039	33,835
16	Punjab . . . . .	293,648	63,688
17	Rajasthan . . . . .	261,348	58,834
18	Sikkim . . . . .	1,147*	1,452*
19	Tamil Nadu . . . . .	426,700	162,270
20	Tripura . . . . .	4,215*	4,242*
21	Uttar Pradesh . . . . .	535,169	178,330
22	West Bengal . . . . .	287,902	182,670
23	Andaman . . . . .	3,890*	510*
24	Arunachal . . . . .	4,555*	1,124*
25	Chandigarh . . . . .	8,487	4,027
26	Delhi . . . . .	175,152	52,917
27	Goa, Daman & Diu . . . . .	25,063*	5,582*
28	Mizoram . . . . .	2,338*	932*
29	Pondicherry . . . . .	11,548	3,164

NOTE: December sales figures are Provisional.

\*Sales figures for December, 79—Not included

### Rural Poor

21. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that rural poor is becoming poorer day by day; and

(b) what specific steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Trends in the incidence of poverty over the period of planning have not been clearly established and comparison of data on consumption expenditure and other relevant factors does not show that there is a deterioration in the living conditions of the rural poor though it is clear that the expansion of agricultural output and growth in non-

agricultural sector could not create enough employment opportunities for the growing rural population. The draft sixth plan document states that the number of economically weak has increased.

(b) Apart from the investment in the public sector and private sector of the economy which to varying extent benefits the poorer sections in the rural areas, Government have the following specific Programmes which are aimed at improving the living conditions of the rural poor:—

(1) *Integrated Rural Development Programme*

This programme is aimed at raising the families of the rural poor above the poverty line by providing them income-generating assets and self employment through a combination of subsidies provided by the State and loans provided by the banking institutions. The programme is now being implemented in 2,600 blocks out of the total of 5,000 blocks in the country and 300—400 poor families are directly assisted under this programme in each block every year.

(2) *Small Farmers & Marginal Farmers Development Agency.*

169 agencies, covering 201 districts and 1818 blocks, are now in operation and these agencies are providing subsidies and arranging loans for small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers. Since the inception of the programme 77.13 lakhs participants have been actually assisted and 165.17 lakhs participants have been identified for providing assistance.

(3) *Food for Work Programme*

The programme was launched in 1977 with the purpose of providing assistance exclusively to the rural poor through employment 3,803 million tonnes of foodgrains have been provided by way of wages to the rural poor who have been employed under the scheme and it is estimated that 428.22 million man-days of employment had

been generated by this programme in 1977-78 and 1978-79. The programme is being continued in the current year also.

(4) *Drought Prone Areas Programme*

A programme for improving environmental conditions in chronically drought prone areas with the objective of stabilising and improving the incomes of the poorer sections of the population in such areas is under operation in 74 districts covering 13 states. The programme extends to 1/5th of the area of the country and 12 per cent of the population. The programme is being continued in the Sixth Plan also.

(5) *Command Area Development Programme*

This was started with the intention of utilising the potential generated by irrigation projects and the benefits of this programme accrued substantially to the rural poor through additional employment opportunities and land development etc. 42 Command Area authorities are in operation and this programme is also an on-going programme.

(6) *Training for self-employment scheme*

Started in the current year, the scheme is intended to benefit unemployed young men and women in the rural areas. The target is to train on an average, at least 40 young men and women in each block in the current year in taking up schemes for self-employment. The scheme extends to the whole country and at the completion of training, the beneficiaries to be provided subsidies and loans for starting enterprises of their own.

ग्वालियर (मध्य प्रदेश) से दिल्ली और भोपाल के लिए एस० टी० डी० सेवा

22 श्री एन० के० राजबलकर नया संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) ग्वालियर (मध्य प्रदेश) से दिल्ली और भोपाल के लिए एस० टी० डी० सेवा कब शुरू होगी