

**Construction of Rural Communication
Roads in various States**

803. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU:
ISHRI BAPURAOJI MAROT-
RAOJI DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of RURAL RE-
CONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had a programme of "Minimum Needs Programme" under which rural communication roads were constructed in various States;

(b) if so, what is the mileage of roads constructed in each State; and

(c) what follow-up steps Government propose to take to implement the said programme in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Development of rural roads received encouragement during the 5th Plan period as a part of the Minimum Needs Programme with the object of linking all villages having a population of 1500 and above with all weather roads and connecting clusters of villages with matching population in hilly, tribal and coastal areas.

(b) Information is being collected from the State Governments and Union Territories and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

(c) The construction of rural roads under the Revised Minimum Needs Programme is being continued in all States/U.Ts during the Sixth Plan period. According to the present norm laid down by the Government of India, 100 per cent villages have population above 1500, and 50 per cent villages having population between 1000—1500 will be connected by all weather roads in the next two Five Year Plan periods. Progress regarding the implementation of the rural roads programme under the Revised Minimum Needs Programme is being ascertained from the State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

Taking over of Roorkee University

804. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation to take over the Roorkee University by the Centre;

(b) the efforts made by the Centre and the University Grants Commission to give adequate funds for running the Roorkee University; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision with regard to the administration of Roorkee University on sound lines?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir, a representation was received from the Vice-Chancellor of the Roorkee University. However, there has been no official request from the State Government on the subject.

(b) Funds to the University are given only through the University Grants Commission. Besides the maintenance grant for running the University, adequate grants are given to it by the University Grants Commission also for the various developmental activities.

(c) The University is already running on sound basis in accordance with the provisions of the Roorkee University Act, 1948. However, to make further improvements in its working, a comprehensive new legislation is being prepared by the State Government to repeal and replace the existing law.

**Representations for Fixing Higher
Price for Paddy**

805. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN:
SHRI RAMAKRISHNA
HEGDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation from the farmers and the Government of Tamil