

Construction of Rural Communication Roads in various States

803. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI BAPURAJI MAROT-
RAOJI DESHMUKH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Gov-
ernment had a programme of "Mini-
mum Needs Programme" under which
rural communication roads were con-
structed in various States;

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

(c) what follow-up steps Govern-
ment 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 re-
ceived encouragement during the 5th
Plan period as a part of the Minimum
Needs Programme with the object of
linking all villages having a popula-
tion of 1500 and above with all wea-
ther 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 re-
ceived.

(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 be-
tween 1000-1500 will be connected by
all weather roads in the next two
Five Year Plan periods. Progress re-
garding the implementation of the
rural roads programme under the Re-
vised 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 re-
ceived any representation to take
over the Roorkee University by the
Centre;

(b) the efforts made by the Centre
and the University Grants Commis-
sion to give adequate funds for run-
ning the Roorkee University; and

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

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

(b) Funds to the University are
given only through the University
Grants Commission. Besides the main-
tenance grant for running the Uni-
versity, adequate grants are given to
it by the University Grants Commis-
sion also for the various develop-
mental activities.

(c) The University is already run-
ning 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 legis-
lation 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 AGRICUL-
TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-
ceived representation from the far-
mers and the Government of Tamil