

## CHAPTER 4

General Facilities And Services Enjoyed  
By The Population.

## 4.0 INTRODUCTION

4.0.1 The grass-root rural economy cannot begin to move up to a course of expanding level of output without the cooperation of a big set of infrastructural services and general facilities (Baran 1952, Rostow 1952, 1955, 1956, Viner 1953, Schultz 1964, Sarkar 1990e). We shall discuss about the modus operandi of the creation and maintenance of such services and facilities in the concluding chapter. This chapter merely deals with the stock-taking of the existing set up to give an idea about the shape of the rural economy in relation to these matters.

## 4.1 LAW AND ORDER

4.1.1 A strong constitution for ushering in inflexible law and order in the rural economy is necessary more for the poor than for the rich. The need of a system whereby both the rich and the poor are protected in their formation of incomes and assets can hardly be over emphasized. The more intensive use of land is not possible unless an integrated framework can be set up for protection of diverse crops on the fields and productive assets in the households.

4.1.2 The two blocks of Chanchal constitute the area of Chanchal police station which has no jurisdiction outside these two blocks.

The unit has 3 Sub-Inspectors, 2 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 13 constables. A total of 18 policemen for the population 217,747 (Census: 1981) gives the police-man ratio of the area at 1:12,097. The entire police force of the station depend on an old four-wheeler jeep bought twenty years ago. Petrol quota is fixed by the Government at three hundred litres per month. This is absolutely insufficient for the 235 kms roadways of the two blocks. The communication network include facilities of radio telegraphy and telephones. The scope of RT facility has been limited as there is one wireless operator. According to the officials telephone facility has, as in the rest of the country, deteriorated. A point is that in the course of the last 10 years neither the strength of the police force nor any other facility has been enlarged to keep pace with the growing population. At the same time the increase of the number, length and quality of roads in the area has facilitated fast movement of the criminals.

4.1.3 We may have a glimpse of the incidents of crime from Table 4.1.1 which shows the recorded cases in Chanchal Police Station in a period of two years, January, 1986 to December, 1987. The data of this table give only a part of the total picture of crimes. The reasons are quite well-known. Firstly, a large number of diaries lodged by the people do not develop into police cases. Secondly, a large number of incidents are not at all reported to the police. Both the illiterate rural people and the educated farmers or businessmen express their unwillingness to go to the

Table 4.1.1

Crimes in Chanchal P.S., January, 1986-December, 1987.

Description	Number	Description	Number
Theft and Burglaries		Other crimes	
1. Burglary	4	7. Murder	6
2. Crops & Bamboos	7	8. Rioting	11
3. Shallow Tube Well machine	10	9. Robbery	1
4. Electric wires, Power, Transformers	19	10. Rape	1
5. Property of Govt. institutions	7	11. Food adulteration	11
6. Others	38	12. Others	80
Theft and Burglaries - Total	85	Other crimes Total	110

Source : Records in the office of the Circle Inspector,  
Malda 'B' Circle.

police as the police fail to detect any crime and recover the assets lost. Now-a-days the villagers themselves arrange individual or group level security system for preventing theft of harvest and equipments like shallow tube well machines or pump sets. With the fall of the protective power of police, the poor has an added disadvantage. Unlike the relatively better off people he can neither build up his own security system nor can he join a group security arrangement. He can form assets only to lose them to burglars or thieves. This aspect of the value of policing system will be the basis of a community planning in our concluding chapter.

## 4.2 HEALTH, SANITATION AND DRINKING WATER

4.2.1 The government health arrangement is aimed at giving free medical benefits to the people<sup>1</sup>. The network covering the two blocks can be seen from charts 4.2.1 (a) and 4.2.2 (b). Since the post of medical officer lie mostly vacant in the subsidiary health centres, the people have to depend mainly upon the primary Health Centre at the block headquarters. The rural hospital of Chanchal is the biggest of all health units in the area. It has two separate wings for treatment of malarial and tuberculosis. A family planning centre is also attached to this hospital where sterilisation operations like vasectomy and tubectomy are done. However in absence of any post of specialised medical personnel like Anaesthetist, Pathologist, surgeons and the like, this centre could not emerge as a self-sufficient unit for the people of the block area. In many cases patients coming to the block health Centres are referred to the district hospital at Malda.

4.2.2 The quality of service the patients receive from the Government Health Centres in the form of check-up, supply of medicines and food etc., is poor. According to the health officials the amount of money spent for food is much below the requirement for a standard meal for the patients. Medicine supply is also completely inadequate. The village people complain that the medicines of the health centres do not work. Unless compelled by the severity of the disease the poor people do not like to move to Government Health Centres, and prefer quacks in the villages. The

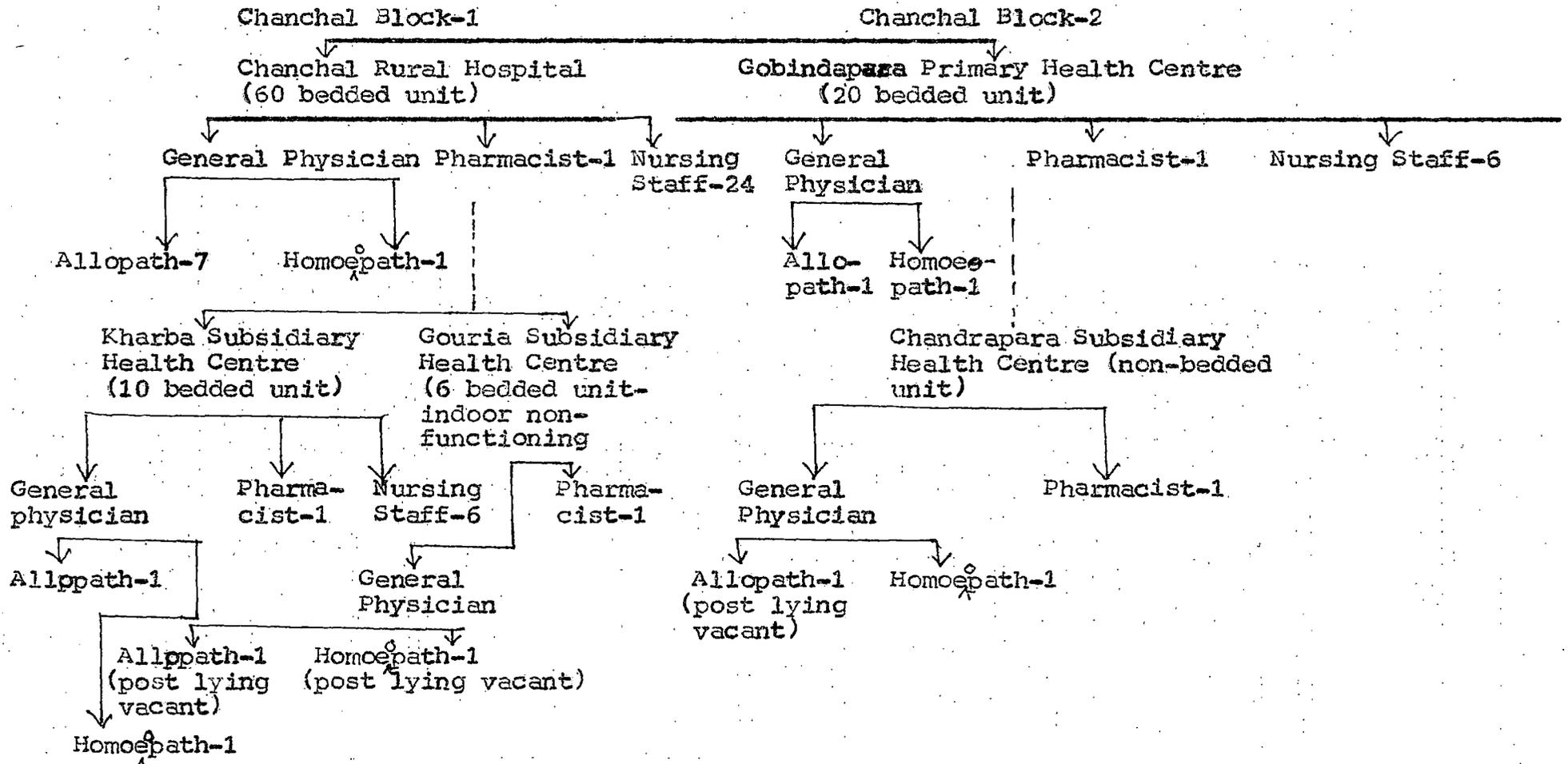
wealthy villagers go to the private nursing homes at the district headquarters Malda or Purnea in the attached state of Bihar.

4.2.3 The Government gives more weightage to preventive works which include immunisation, precaution against epidemics and sanitation. The work is conducted under a 'Multipurpose Health Programme'. The network of the preventive wing is shown in Chart 4.2.2 (b). At the bottom there is provision of one male health assistant and one female health assistant to do preventive works for every 5000 people. There is also provision of one health clinic for every 5000 people. But all the Clinics have not yet been opened. Immunisation work in the area fails mainly as a result of refusal of the beneficiaries to take the successive doses of the vaccines. In absence of organised persuasion work among the uneducated villagers, those who once take the first dose of the medicine do not turn up at the clinics for the successive doses. Absence of arrangement of refrigeration in such clinics also leaves scope for loss of potency of the vaccines.

4.2.4 We have discussed in Chapter 3 about the unhygienic village health environment which cause suffering of the villagers from all sorts of contamination. Any attempt on the part of the Government to raise the level of village sanitation and hygiene has been completely absent. The health centres have provision of supplying bleaching powder in the summer season for cleaning of tube wells, wells etc. But no people of the five sample villages we have surveyed, witnessed, in their respective villages any such

Chart 4.2.1 (a)

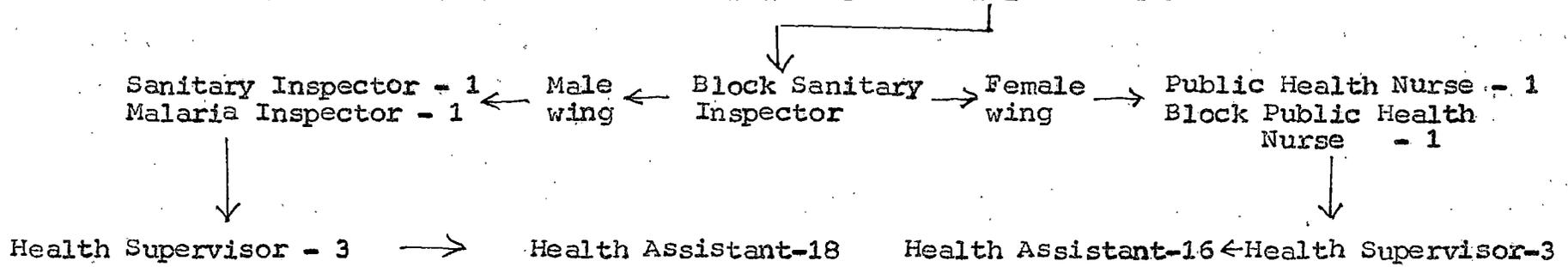
Government Health Network - 1) Curative Section



Note: Data for Charts 4.2.1(a) & 4.2.2(b) are supplied by the Block Medical Officer of Health, Chanchal.

Chart - 4.2.2 (b)

Government Health Network 2) Preventive Sections



work that is needed to ensure water sanitation. Even spraying of any anti-infection medicines in the open drains, ditches or other dirty places, favourable for breeding of mosquitoes or other polluting agents, was not reported by the villagers.

4.2.5 The responsibility of supplying fresh drinking water rests upon the department of Public Health Engineering. In Chanchal - I, this department has constructed a water tank of 75,000 Gallons capacity. But the work has been limited only in the urban locality of the block headquarters with the construction of few roadside taps. The department during the period 1985-1988 spent on an average Rs. 100,333 per year per block for sinking, resinking and repairing of tubewells. The position of an average sample mouza by the middle of 1986 can be seen from Table 4.2.1.

Table 4.2.1

Sources of Water In The Average Sample Village<sup>2</sup>

Water sources	Average number of units per sample village		
	Panchayat owned	Privately owned	Total
1. Hand tube-wells	4.2	5.4	9.6
2. Wells	2.4	3.4	5.8
3. Ponds	-	7.6	7.6
4. Taps	-	-	-

The privately owned hand tube-wells or wells are not open for the use of all. The 95 per cent of the village households who have to

depend upon the Panchayat owned sources of water do not at all enjoy any comfortable position.

#### 4.3 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SERVICES AND EXTENSION

4.3.1 Animal development programme in modern times include breeding of improved variety of animals through artificial insemination, fodder management and scientific treatment facilities to protect animal assets from diseases. Any advancement in these respects has been completely absent in our block economy. The cows have become machines of producing cowdung. The animals suffer premature deaths from diseases that remain undiagnosed. In most cases such animals receive treatment from village quacks (locally called Gachhan treatment) who are mostly common physician for both man and animal. The role of the Government in making animal assets a productive enterprise to farmers, has been of no significance.

4.3.2 The Government has a block-based network to conduct the work of animal development. The works of breeding and fodder management fall under the jurisdiction of animal husbandry department while the veterinary department deals with treatment and prevention. In each block there are one block veterinary Centre, one veterinary aid centre and one veterinary dispensary under the veterinary department and one artificial insemination centre under the department of animal husbandry. In Chanchal Block-I there is one additional veterinary hospital. All the units except the veterinary dispensary are provided with one veterinary surgeon.

The veterinary dispensary runs with only two field assistants. The surgeon of the nearest centre visit the dispensary once in a week. Medicines are supplied once a year from the district headquarters. The clinics have neither the arrangement of refrigeration to preserve medicines nor the surgical instruments and microscopes so essential to facilitate scientific treatment. While immunization programme of public health fails for non-completion of doses one can simply imagine the fate of prevention and mass-dosing of animals. The statistics as advanced by the different clinics of the two blocks show that during the period of 1984 to 1988 on an average annually 24,227 animals were treated and 69,884 animals were given different preventive vaccines in the area of our block economy. According to the veterinary surgeons we have met, the animal suffers mainly from parasitic diseases which is a common problem of water logged regions. However the cattles suffer more from malnutrition than from diseases. With the extension of cultivation grazing land in the villages is being reduced day by day. No simultaneous attempt is made to make up the loss through extension of fodder cultivation. The work of animal husbandry department has been limited only in doing few cases of artificial insemination.

#### 4.4 EDUCATION

4.4.1 Education in our rural area is supervised entirely by the Government. All of our five sample mouzas have primary schools. The high schools also could be found within a distance of 3 kms from the sample mouzas. The only College is situated at the block headquarters, Chanchal. Table 4.4.1 shows the entire network.

Table 4.4.1

## Educational Facilities of Chanchal I &amp; II

Classes taught	Number of institutions	Ratio of institutions to total population
I-IV	165	1 : 1,320
V-VIII	34	1 : 6,404
VIII-X	19	1 : 11,460
XI-XII	2	1 : 108,873
Graduation course in arts and commerce	1	1 : 217,746
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>1 : 985</b>

Source : Estimated from the data of 'Annual Block Plan-1985' and offices of the Sub-Inspectors of Schools, Chanchal.

4.4.2 Since the primary schools are the chief promoters of village level education, an analysis of the student strength of such schools over the years is deemed relevant. Table 4.4.2 reveals three aspects. First, the number of students fall drastically from Class I to Class II. Only 24 out of 91 i.e. 26.4 per cent of the students who took admission in the school continue their education till the terminal class. This happens even within a system where the students once admitted get automatic promotion every year in the upper class in the primary level. Secondly, student strength show a declining trend over the period of last five years from 1983 to 1987. Thirdly, female child is being discriminated against male child in primary education.

Table 4.4.2  
Student Strength Of An Average Primary School  
During Last Five Years

Class	Years					1983-87 Average
	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	
I Male	48	50	53	52	51	51
Female	34	36	35	43	41	40
Total	82	86	88	95	92	91
II Male	17	18	14	13	13	15
Female	13	10	10	10	10	11
Total	30	28	24	23	23	26
III Male	18	14	13	15	16	15
Female	10	13	10	9	9	10
Total	28	27	23	24	25	25
IV Male	18	18	16	12	11	15
Female	10	9	11	8	7	9
Total	28	27	27	20	18	24
All Male classes	101	100	96	92	91	96
Female	67	68	66	70	67	70
Total	168	168	162	<del>162</del> 162	<del>158</del> 158	166

Source : Estimated from data collected from the five primary schools of our five sample mouzas.

4.4.3 A kind of non-formal education for adults is now being supervised by four Government Officers, called 'Extension Officer of Social Education'. According to official data 18 Centres operate in our block economy. Two teachers work for each Centre at a nominal honorarium of Rs. 150 per month. Teachers are asked to organise two hours' coaching per day to enable the adult illiterates to read and write. But the scheme at its present

framework has been a total failure with regard to its performance and continue to exist in papers only so far as money spent for education of adults is concerned.

#### 4.5 ROADS, RAILWAYS AND RIVERWAYS

4.5.1 Extension of infrastructure for transport is a precondition of extension of market. Roads, railways and riverways are the three forms of ways through which men and goods can move outwards from or inwards to the villages. Though the river Mahananda has connected Chanchal with Malda, yet it is not used as riverways. Shortage of water flow in the summer season makes it unfit for navigation. Some deepening of the river bed undertaken with sluice gates at intervals requires rather heavy investments. There is also no railways <sup>within</sup> ~~with~~ the two blocks of Chanchal. A very small stretch of the Malda-NJP broad gauge line falling within the area of Chanchal II without any halt or station is no railway for the people of Chanchal. Samsi, approximately 10 kms away from the Centre of our two blocks, is the nearest railway station. The people of the area can catch passenger trains at Samsi and express trains at Malda town. Roadways are the main ways between the villages of the two blocks, block headquarters, the district headquarters and all other towns of the State. Map 4 depicts the three different ways in the area of Chanchal.

4.5.2 Chanchal is connected with the district headquarters, Malda by 72 kms State highways. In Chanchal-I four pacca roads of 35 kms

length run through four parts of the block centering Chanchal. Six roads of Jhama consolidation and brick solling of 18 kms length run through different villages. These roads are all weather roads through which vehicles can move. Kuccha roads of the length of 120 kms running through different villages are actually fair weather roads. Vehicles can move through these roads only in the dry seasons. Chanchal block II has pacca roads of 22 kms and Kuchha roads of 40 kms length. Combining the two blocks therefore there is 1 km pacca road for every 2,903 people, and 1 km Kuccha road for every 1,361 people.

4.5.3 Out of our five sample mouzas four are connected with the nearest market towns with pacca roads. Balidanga of Chanchal I is connected with the nearest pacca road reaching the market towns by 5 kms Kuchha roads. Therefore it is reasonable to estimate that one fifth of the villages of the two blocks suffer from want of adequate roadways between the villages and the nearest regular roads. All roads within the villages are Kuchha. In absence of even brick solling these kuchha roads remain unfit for use of pedestrains and carts in the rainy season.

#### 4.6 TRANSPORT

4.6.1 The people of Chanchal can avail the railway transport facility only for movement outwards from the district headquarters. Though the river Mahananda connects some villages of Chanchal in its eastern border with the district headquarters, boats are not used as a means of transport in the region. Boats are used only for <sup>ferry</sup> ~~boat~~ services. The sailors in the rainy season often carry

bamboos along the river to the district town using river current. In absence of either railway transport or riverine transport, roadway transport dominate the fields of both passenger and goods transport.

4.6.2 The roadway transport for carrying passengers from the block headquarters to other blocks of the district or other towns of the State is dominated by the privately owned bus services. At present 22 private buses ply over seven different routes. A State Government undertaking, namely, the North Bengal State Transport Corporation, also run buses through these routes. It has opened the longest bus route of 408 kms linking Chanchal to the State capital, Calcutta. The N.B.S.T.C. has no arrangement of goods transport. Two private transport companies operate in this field. There are 6 trucks and 5 Matador vans in the private sector which are rented out for goods transport on contract payments.

4.6.3 While the network of road transport linking the block headquarters to outside, has improved over the yesteryears, the transport within the block area remains most traditional. The villagers residing nearer to the four pacca roads of the block area get local bus service to reach the block headquarters. But such service is so infrequent that people have to search for other local means of transport. Pomy-carts (locally called Tanga) and bullock-carts are used as the chief means of passenger transport and goods transport in our block area. These traditional means of

transport, compared to modern bus service, are uneconomic from both time and cost considerations.

#### 4.7 COMMUNICATION

4.7.1 The area of our block economy is covered by 23 branches of post office of which 8 branches have attached public call office that offers telephone facility. The postal facility of the area can be seen from the Table 4.7.1.

Table 4.7.1  
Postal Network of Chanchal

Postal units	Distance of the unit from the average sample mouza	Average per unit coverage of population
Post Office	1.8 kms	9,467
Public Call Office	2.7 kms	27,218
Telegraph Office	5.6 kms	217,746

Most of the public call offices however run defunct throughout the year. The present system does not ensure quick repairing of the ineffective telephone connections or the damaged telegraph lines. Letters are delivered once a day from all the postal branches. The post office at Chanchal has installed <sup>few</sup> ~~some~~ post boxes only in the urban locality to collect letters. Very recently private courier service has entered into the block area opening one counter at Chanchal.

4.7.2 Newspapers, published from the State Capital reach Chanchal one day later. But the newspapers reach only the dwellers of the urban locality of Chanchal and few local country towns. For the vast majority of the villages the only source of getting every day news is the radio transmission. Television transmission do not reach Chanchal. The block area falls outside the command area of the nearest television relay centres. The well-off people however try to catch T.V. transmission from Kurseong Centre in Darjeeling district using boosters.

#### 4.8 ELECTRICITY

4.8.1 Electricity enters into the area of our blocks through one 33 KV line from the district headquarters Malda and another 33 KV line from Raiganj town in West Dinajpur district. The main power coming from Chukha project of Bhutan reaches Chanchal through the Malda line. The Raiganj line operate only to meet emergency needs when the supply of power via Malda fails. Shortage of transformers in the main line between Malda and Chanchal, makes the latter a low voltage area. The capacity of the transformer of the Chanchal Sub-station falls short of what is required to meet the demand of electricity in the area. The state electricity Board has proposed to install a new transformer to meet the requirements. But at present, the area of Chanchal suffers from frequent load sheddings. Breakdown of transformers, damage of the distribution lines also lead to random power failure. Such power cuts in peak agricultural seasons pose a great threat against a good harvest.

4.8.2 Both domestic consumption lines and lines for irrigation schemes have been set up in some parts of each of the 90 per cent of the villages of the two blocks. The official version of this very modest fact is that 90 per cent of the villages have been electrified. As there is no certainty of power supply the people of our sample mouzas at present do not like to have electric connection for their shallow tube well installations. Only 25 per cent of the private installations run with electricity while the rest 75 per cent use diesel motors, even when the people suffer from acute diesel crisis, especially in times of cultivation of Boro paddy. The common villagers are not capable to make household electrification. On an average 2 per cent of the households of a sample mouza use electricity for house illumination.

#### 4.9 STATE RUN IRRIGATION FACILITIES

4.9.1 The Government arranges to utilise underground water for cultivation installing shallow and deep tube wells. The riverside lands under cultivation are irrigated by direct lifting of water from rivers using pump sets. So far a total of 96 shallow tube wells in four clusters, 16 deep tube wells and 42 river lift machines are installed in the area of the two blocks under Government scheme. Among these installations 12 shallow tube wells, 3 deep tube wells and 10 river lift schemes have become non-functioning. The shallow tube wells have become of no use as the water level in some areas has gone down. The river lift schemes have become non-functioning mostly where the river goes dry. The deep tube wells become inoperative due to leakage in the underground pipes. In

addition to these there has been theft of pipelines and machine parts of some installations. No system of canal irrigation is yet introduced. The various irrigation installations of the Government is shown in map 4. At present the Government schemes provide irrigation to 1978 hectares land which stands at 7.15% of the net cultivated area of our blocks. Therefore it is not very difficult to assess the current role of irrigation under Government aegis. What is clear is that the Government is slowly passing the responsibility of management of irrigation water to private individuals who run their business on loans from nationalized financial institutions (Sarkar, Amin & Kundu 1990d).

#### 4.10 CREDIT FACILITIES

4.10.1 With the introduction of modern farming that requires huge investment in agriculture, advancing of money to the poor farmers by nationalised banks has gained importance. Regional rural banks, called Gramin Banks, are established under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India and the NABARD, especially to advance credit to the rural people. Four branches of Gour Gramin Bank, along with five branches of other banks namely, State Bank of India, United Bank of India, State Land Development Bank and District Central Co-operative Bank are located within the area of our two blocks. As the Gramin banks have entered into the remote villages we find that the branch of a bank is available within a distance of maximum 6 kms from our sample mouzas. The Government advance money to the rural poor through these banks under different schemes designed to eradicate poverty. Other than

advancing money of the Government Schemes these banks on their own give credit to rural people at low rates of interest and easier terms for repayment. Such loans include short-term or medium-term crop loans, loans for minor irrigation projects, tractors etc. credit is given for activities allied to agriculture like, pisciculture, poultry, dairy and also non-agricultural activities like opening of small scale industry, retail trade shop etc. The rate of interest varies depending upon the nature of the loan within a range of 10% to 15% per annum. However the poor people cannot derive any benefit since the banks ask for security against each loan which the poor people cannot afford to deposit. Thus loans other than that of the Govt. Schemes escape the needy people who have to borrow money from the village money lenders, called Mahajans, at a rate of interest varying within 60 per cent to 120 per cent per annum.

4.10.2 We can make an estimate about the dose of bank credit being injected to the agricultural sector in our area from the data presented in Table 4.10.1. Our estimate shows that the total credit advanced per annum by nine branches of different banks for our total sample stands at mere Rs. 335 per farm families or Rs. 133 per acre of net cultivated area. What therefore we can reasonably conclude is that the role of the nationalised financial institutions in advancing credit for farming has not yet vastly increased to replace the village moneylenders.

Credit Advance Of Five Banks of Chanchal (including advance under different Government Schemes) in the year 1987

Sl. No.	Name of the banks	Amount of credit advance (Rs.)
1.	S.B. I. Chanchal Branch	1,712,000
2.	U.B.I. " "	1,286,000
3.	G.G.B. Malatipur Branch	1,146,000
4.	District Central Co-operative Bank - Chanchal Branch	1,511,000
5.	State Land Development Bank- Chanchal Branch	503,050

Source : Branch Managers of The Respective Banks.  
Data given for restricted use only.

#### 4.11 INPUT AND OUTPUT MARKETS

4.11.1 The activities of the Government has been rather better in organising input market for agricultural production compared to the other fields we have discussed so far. One agricultural development officer for each of the two blocks conduct the work of distribution of agricultural inputs among the farmers. The work of agricultural extension covers distribution of 'minikits'<sup>3</sup> of inputs like fertilisers, newer varieties of seeds and implements. The poor farmers get such 'minikits' either free of cost or at subsidised price. Demonstration camps are organised to impart the knowhow of cultivation of new crops to the farmers. The farmers also get

facilities of testing of soil for application of different fertilisers in correct proportion on the basis of the soil character. The volume of such activities in our block economy for a sample year can be known from Table 4.11.1.

Table 4.11.1  
Distribution of 'Minikits' in Chanchal I & II  
In The Year 1987-88

Inputs	Amount Distributed		
	Chanchal I	Chanchal II	Total
Seeds	3,400.21 qls	1,258.23 qls	4,658.44 qls
Fertilisers	196.85 qls	Data not available	-
Pesticides	199.2 ltrs	-Do-	-
Implements	13 nos.	95 nos.	108 nos.

Source : Offices of the Agricultural Development Officers of the respective blocks.

4.11.2 Distribution of 4,658.44 qls of various seeds for 27,641 hectares net sown area of the two blocks give the per hectare average at approximately 17 kgs. Distribution of such 'minikits' has been part of different programmes of the Government namely, 'National Oil Seed Development Programme', 'Special Jute Development Programme', 'Special Rice Production Programme' etc. In a paddy demonstration programme, five new varieties of paddy were introduced in Chanchal I. The introduction of newer varieties

of crops is also conducted by one 'Sub-Divisional Research Farm' of our block area, under the Ministry of Agriculture of the State. Among others, this farm has introduced coconut plantation in the area, distributing small coconut plants grown in the farm, through the office of the agricultural development officer. A total of 362 farmers of our blocks got the opportunity of testing the soil character of their land from the soil testing unit at the district town via the office of the A.D.O. in the sample year 1987-88. The people of the area can purchase the agricultural inputs in the open market from four wholesale shops and many other retail shops in the private sector. Crisis of diesel to run irrigation machines especially in the 'Rabi' season has been a regular feature causing reduction of H. Y. V. paddy cultivation.

4.11.3 The producers do not find any organised output market to sell their agricultural products ~~from the farmers~~ at some minimum support price. While the food corporation do not make any purchase in our block area, the jute corporation purchased only 15,000 qls of jute i.e. 9% of the total production of our area through its sub-centre in the block region in the sample year 1986 at the support price Rs. 269.50 per qtl. The Govt. of West Bengal also has a department of agricultural marketing to organise the output market. So far the works of this department as we came to know from its sub-divisional office at the block headquarters, include, construction of one godown within our block area and one principal market complex with storage facilities, at Samsi, 10 kms away from the centre of our block region. In the present situation the farmers

while selling their marketable surplus are helplessly exposed to a chain of middlemen. These middlemen fix the price of the products at their discretion completely beyond any control of the Government.

#### 4.12 PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, RELIEFS AND OTHER WELFARE ACTIVITIES

4.12.1 The entire population of the two blocks are served by a system of public distribution. By 1987, 2,34,500 card holders of 46,763 families were distributed essential food articles at Government controlled price by 77 modified ration dealers throughout the two blocks. The people get weekly supply of 100 gms to 150 gms sugar per head, 1 kg to 1.5 kgs main cereal (Rice or wheat) per head and 1 to 2 litres kerosene oil per family. In the rural area people do not take the main cereals from the ration shops except in times of natural calamities like flood or drought. Therefore only kerosene oil and sugar are supplied by these ration shops throughout the year.

4.12.2 The Government also arrange relief work in times of natural calamities. The relief work include, (1) advancing of house-building grant to distressed persons, person affected by fire, cyclone, storm or flood, (2) distress relief in the form of supplying clothings or blankets in the winter, (3) normal gratuitous relief i.e., cash money support to starving people, (4) special gratuitous relief like food support in times of flood etc. The volume of relief work over two sample years are shown in Table 4.12.1.

Table 4.12.1

Government Relief Activities in Chanchal (I & II)  
Over The Period 1986-1988

Sl. No.	Relief Schemes	Amount Spent	
		April, 1986- March, 1987	April, 1987- March, 1988
1.	House building grants	Rs. 189,426	Rs. 2,585,940
2.	Normal gratuitous relief	Rs. 1,750	Rs. 600
3.	Special gratuitous relief	1414 qls food articles	5011.88 qls food articles
4.	Flood contingency	Rs. 8,000	Rs. 87,000
5.	Garments	1,230 pieces	11,250 pieces
6.	Tarpaulin sheets	-	2390 pieces
7.	Dry foods	-	277 bags
8.	Special nutrition programme	Rs. 48,960 and 32.40 qls of wheat	Rs. 2,150 and 48.10 qls of wheat

Source : Relief Inspectors of the two blocks of Chanchal.

4.12.3 Welfare activity other than rations and reliefs cover such welfare schemes as old age pension, pension for widows and physically disabled persons, non-institutional child care programmes etc. All these heads cover a total of 174 people within our block economy who enjoy pension of Rs. 60 per month. Estimating on the basis of the number of perpetually sick and disabled persons found in our sample area we find that the block coverage of such people under pension schemes stands at mere 10 per cent of the total.

#### 4.13 SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENTS

4.13.1 The opportunities of Sports and entertainment the people enjoy determine the cultural environment which is a good indicator of the level of socio-economic advancement of an area. The State Government has established rural libraries in the villages. In our block economy there are 30 clubs-cum-libraries. These clubs receive sports materials from the youth service department of the blocks. Supply of sports materials is deficient and infrequent. The libraries do not get any yearly book-grant and suffer from want of books. The youth service department also organise block level annual sports meet, science seminars, different cultural competitions. They also give some annual grant for educational tour of the students. However such activities actually involve a very smaller part of the rural youths.

4.13.2 Among the various sources of entertainments the village people prefer Jatra and circus. The clubs organise Jatra shows every year in the winter for three or four days. The people of the present generation witnessed the only circus in the area in 1985. Two privately owned Cinema halls are centred at the block head quarters at Chanchal. The private businessmen have also entered into the rural market centres opening Video houses. The movies displayed in the Cinema halls or the rural Video parlours are mostly unhealthy. This unhealthy wave has started to swallow the local folk culture and pollute the cultural environment of our rural society. The Government has not taken any initiative to make available parallel healthy sources of entertainments to the villagers.