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A great deal of discussion continues as to the real extent of global environment degradation and its implications. What few people challenge however is that the renewable natural resources of developing countries are today subject to stresses of unprecedented magnitude. These pressures are brought about, in part, by increased population and the quest for an ever expanding food supply. Because the health, nutrition and general well-being of the poor majority are directly dependent on the integrity and productivity of their natural resources, the capability of government to

manage them effectively over the long term becomes of paramount important.

Developing countries are becoming more aware of the ways in which present and future economic development must built upon a sound and sustainable natural resource base. Some are looking at our long tradition in environmental protection and are receptive to U.S. assistance which recognizes the uniqueness of the social and ecological system in these tropical countries. Developing countries recognize the need to improve their capability to analyze issues and their own natural resource management. In February 1981, for example, AID funded a national Academy of Sciences panel to advise Nepal on its severe natural resource degradation problems. Some countries such as Senegal, India, Indonesia and Thailand, are now including conservation concerns in their economic development planning process.

Because so many governments of developing nations have recognized the importance of these issues, the need today is not merely one of raising additional consciousness, but for carefully designed and sharply focused activities aimed at management regimes that are essential to the achievement of sustained development.

Q: How much environmental pollution has taken place in the developing and developed world?

- A. There has been a marginal pollution of environment in the developed world and extensive damage in the developing world.
- B. There has been a considerable pollution of environment all over the globe.
- C. There has been an extensive environmental degradation both in the developed and developing world.
- D. The environmental pollution that has taken place all over the globe continues to be a matter of speculation and enquiry.

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Q: The poor people of the developing world can lead a happy and contented life if

A. There is a North-South dialogue and aid flows freely to the developing world.

B. Industries based on agriculture are widely developed.

C. Economic development takes place within the ambit of conservation of natural resources.

D. There is an assured supply of food and medical care.

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A. Resources being out-stripped by population growth

- B. Unprecedented urbanization and dislocation of self contained rural communities
- C. Optimum degree of industrialization in the developing countries
- D. Large scale deforestation and desertification

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Q: There has been pronounced deterioration of habitat all over the globe because of

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Q: Technical know-how developed in the USA

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- A. Cannot be easily assimilated by the technocrats of the developing countries
- B. Can be properly utilized on the basis of developing countries being able to launch an in-depth study of their specific problems
- C. Can be easily borrowed by the developing countries to solve the problem of environmental degradation
- D. Can be very effective in solving the problem of resource management in tropical countries

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Q: Some of the developing countries of Asia and Africa have

A. Formulated very ambitious plans of protecting habitat in the region B. Laid a great stress on the conservation of natural resources in their educational endeavour

C. Carefully dovetailed environmental conservation with the overall strategy of planned economic development

D. Sought the help of US experts in solving the problem of environmental degradation.

The public distribution system, which provides food at low prices, is a subject of vital concern. There is a growing realization that though Pakistan has enough food to feed its masses three square meals a day, the monster of starvation and food insecurity continues to haunt the poor in our country.

Increasing the purchasing power of the poor through providing productive employment, leading to rising income, and thus good standard of living is the ultimate objective of public policy. However, till then, there is a need to provide assured supply of food through a restructured, more efficient and decentralized public distribution system (PDS).

Although the DDS is extensive—it is one of the largest such existence in the world

has yet to reach the rural poor and the far off places. It remains an urban phenomenon, with the majority of the rural poor still out of its reach due to lack of economic and physical access. The poorest in the cities and the migrants are left out, for they generally don not possess ration cards. The allocation of PDS supplies in big cities is large than in rural areas. In view of such deficiencies in the system, the PDS urgently needs to be streamlined. In addition, considering the large food grains production combined with food subsidy on one hand and the continuing slow starvation and dismal poverty of the rural population on the other, there is a strong case for making PDS target group oriented.

The growing salaried class is provided job security, regular income, and percent insulation against inflation. These gains of development have not percolated down to the vast majority of our working population. If one compares only dearness allowance to the employees in public and private sector and looks at its growth in the past few years, the rising food subsidy is insignificant to the point of inequity. The food subsidy is a kind of D.A. to the poor, the self-employed and those in the unorganized sector of the economy. However, what is most unfortunate is that out of the large budget of the so-called food subsidy, the major part of it is administrative cost and wastages. A small portion of the above budget goes to real consumer and an even lesser portion to the poor who are in real need.

It is true that subsidies should not become a permanent feature, except for the destitute, disabled, widows and the old. It is also true that subsides often create a psychology of dependence and hence are habit-forming and killing the general initiative of the people. By making PDS target group oriented, not only the poorest and neediest would be reached without additional cost, but it will actually cut overall costs incurred on large cities and for better off localities. When the food and food subsidy are limited, the rural and urban poor should have the priority in the PDS supplies. The PDS should be closely linked with programs of employment generation and nutrition improvement.

Q: What, according to the passage, would be the outcome of making the PDS target group oriented?

A. It will abolish the imbalance of urban and rural sector.

B. It will remove poverty.

C. It will give food to the poorest without additional cost.

D. It will motivate the target group population to work more.

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A. Sense of insecurity

B. Increased dependence

C. Shortage of food grains D. Decrease in food grains

production

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Q: Food subsidy leads to which of the following?