

(iv) A Desert Development Board has been set up to keep under review the preparation and execution of schemes for development of desert areas and removal of administrative bottlenecks etc. This Board has recommended priority for schemes relating to pasture development, soil conservation, afforestation, agricultural development, etc., in the desert areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana.

(v) Suitable programmes of lasting benefit in scarcity frequented areas with a view to preventing drought and minimising its ill effects are under consideration. Two schemes of minor irrigation and soil conservation costing Rs 30.31 lakhs have been taken up in 11 talukas of hard core areas in Anantpur district in Andhra Pradesh during the year 1968-69.

(vi) Other development programmes such as extension of irrigation to new areas and dry farming would also help to reduce the imbalances.

587 [Transferred to the 14th May 1969]

ARFA FOUND SUITABLE FOR DRILLING TUBEWELLS

588 SHRI N. PAIRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the extent of area found to be suitable for drilling wells by the Exploratory Tubewells Organisation in the country State wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDI): The extent of area proved groundwater worthy in different States as a result of exploration carried out by the Exploratory Tubewells Organisation from 1955 up to

the end of March, 1966 is indicated below —

S No.	State	Area in Sq Km.
1	Andhra	1,813
2	Assam	5,180
3	Bihar	2,850
4	Gujarat	5,180
5	Haryana	1,005
6	Kerala	388
7	Madhya Pradesh	3,885
8	Maharashtra	1,165
9	Orissa	2,850
10	Rajasthan	7,770
11	Tamil Nadu	4,400
12	U P.	10,360
13	West Bengal	15,540
		62,386

DIRECT TELEPHONE DIALLING SYSTEM BETWEEN DELHI AND GWALIOR

589 SARDAR D. K. JADHAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to start direct telephone dialling system between Delhi and Gwalior keeping in view the historic and other importance of Gwalior, and

(b) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHRI SINGH): (a) and (b) Proposals to provide subscribers trunk dialling facility between Delhi and Gwalior are dependent on the installation of a Trunk Automatic Exchange at Agra and microwave circuits between Agra and Gwalior. These works are likely to be completed by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan. Thus, the subscriber trunk dialling facility is likely to be available only after Fourth Five Year Plan period.