

SINKING OF TUBEWELLS IN STATES

*390. SHRI B. P. AGARWAL: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tubewells sunk and amount spent thereon in different States so far during the First Five Year Plan period with the assistance given by the Government of India; and

(b) the basis on which such assistance is given?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix X, Annexure No. 75.]

(b) Long-term loans for 15 years are advanced to the State Governments for construction of State-owned tubewells on the basis of the number of tubewells allocated to them. This allocation depends on various considerations such as (1) the proposals received from the State Government, (2) provision made in the Five Year Plan, (3) possibility of large-scale development of underground water resources in an economic manner and (4) recommendations of the Technical team of officers.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL: May I know whether any priority is given for the construction of such tube-wells in areas which are likely to have frequent failure of rain-fall and scarcity conditions?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I can give only a small amount of priority because in all these areas, it is very difficult to get successful tubewells.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL: May I know why Government are not doing anything for Rajasthan for tubewells when this is a scarcity area and has infrequent rainfall?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It is not a suitable area for tubewells, Sir, and it does not come under this scheme, although the Government of India have

spent a considerable amount of money in experimenting on tubewells in Rajasthan.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL: What are the results of the experiments done in Rajasthan?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We have not succeeded very well.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL: Is water available there?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, in some places only about 15,000 or 12,000 gallons are available.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: May I know, Sir, if there are any tubewells-sunk in Mysore?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No, Sir.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know the reason.....

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I think this has been sufficiently discussed on the previous occasion.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the hon. Minister aware that the Bikaner Division is eminently suitable for tubewells?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Well, we have not considered it suitable according to our data.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know if any effort is made to sink tubewells in Maharashtra where there are scarcity conditions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We seem to be asking about the whole country now.

IMPORT OF RICE FROM BURMA

"391. SHRI B. P. AGARWAL: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice imported from Burma so far during the current /ear;