

Board has requested Government to impose a ban on the 'huller' type of rice pounding mills in the country with immediate effect;

(b) whether the Board has also requested Government not to allow any more increase in the number and capacity of the 'sheller' type of mills; and

(c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Board has requested Government to take suitable action to replace the "huller" type of rice mills by hand-pounding of rice.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter is being examined.

PROSPECTING OF GROUND WATER IN ARID REGIONS

*151. SHRI RAHMATH-ULLAH: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ground water is being prospected in the arid regions of India;

(b) if so, what is the result of such prospecting; and

(c) whether any foreign aid has been sought and secured for the above purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India are carrying on ground water prospecting in the Rajasthan area.

(b) According to investigations conducted by the Geological Survey of India, on Pali region, Jodhpur Division, Western Rajasthan, there is no scope for irrigation from tube-wells but small-scale irrigation can be con-

siderably expanded from open dug-wells particularly in the areas with relatively low ground water salinity and shallow water table.

(c) (i) Services of a ground water geologist of the U.S. Geological Survey have been secured by the Geological Survey of India under Point IV Programme.

(ii) A request was made to the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration for the services of a geophysical expert and equipment necessary for his work valued together at an amount of Rs. 3,60,000. The matter is still under negotiations with the United Nations Organisation.

CONSIDERATION OF KHOSLA COMMITTEE REPORT

*152. SHRI RAHMATH-ULLAH: Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the Khosla Committee report; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision to put into execution the Krishna-Pennar Project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) and (b). Certain investigations are being carried out as detailed in pages 129-30 of the Khosla Committee Report and decisions can be taken only after these investigations have been completed. A copy of the Khosla Committee Report was placed on the Table of the Council of States on 12th December 1952.

NATIONAL EXTENSION SERVICE SCHEME

76. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of skilled technical workers required for the National Extension Service Scheme under the Five Year Plan;