

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, the 16th May, 1962/26th  
Vaisakha, 1884 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Sub-soil Water in Delhi

- \*739. { Shri D. N. Tiwary:  
Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:  
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:  
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:  
Shri Maheswar Naik:  
Shri Liladhara Kotaki:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steps taken to lower the sub-soil water in Delhi have shown any result;

(b) whether there has been any appreciable reduction in the height of sub-soil water; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Jaganatha Rao): (a) to (c). Steps have been taken to lower the sub-soil water in the New Delhi area only. 303 tube wells have been sunk of which 48 are actually in operation. The remaining tube wells are expected to go into operation soon. It is too early yet to express any opinion on the success of these measures because the results will be known only after the tube wells have been in operation for about three years.

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Shri D. N. Tiwary: May I know the cost of digging these tube wells?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: Rs. 26,86,439.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the 48 wells which are operating are operating fully and whether there is some indication of the sub-soil water going down?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: As I said earlier, it is not possible to assess the results unless all the 303 tube wells go into operation and work for about three years

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the press reports and public opinion that the present methods adopted by the Government are not sufficient for the purpose?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): I have not seen any report to that effect. If the hon. Member has noticed something and if he passes it on to us, we will certainly have it examined.

Shri Tyagi: May I know how much money was spent on building walls round these tube wells? Originally, the walls were built very high and later on they were demolished. I want to know how much money was wasted on demolishing these walls.

Shri Jaganatha Rao: The cost of construction of each tube well is Rs. 1,170.

Mr. Speaker: He was asking about the money involved in the construction and demolition of walls.

Shri Jaganatha Rao: It is not possible to give the details now. Only in

the case of 20 wells situated at the junctions and important points the height of the walls have been reduced to 3½ ft. above the ground level.

**Shri Tyagi:** Who was responsible for building the walls so high originally? Why was it not considered proper to build them lower then?

**Shri Jaganatha Rao:** The construction was according to the technical advice. Later on, the NDMC suggested that from the aesthetic point of view at important points the walls should not be so high and it should be only 3½ ft. from the ground level.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know by what time the Ministry will be in a position to tell us that these tube wells which are being dug have produced desired results?

**Mr. Speaker:** He said three years.

**Shri Jaganatha Rao:** For that all the 303 tube wells have to go into operation for a period of three years.

**Shri Mohan Nayak:** May I know whether the Government is aware that similar conditions prevail in the old Delhi city also? May I know whether any action is taken there also?

**Shri Jaganath Rao:** Steps are being taken in regard to Delhi area.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khana:** Old Delhi is a part of the Delhi Municipal Corporation and if any action has to be taken in Old Delhi it will be taken by that local body.

**Hari Heda:** Since we see very few tube-wells working, may I know the number of wells that are working at present?

**Shri Jaganatha Rao:** 48 wells are working.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** May I add that when I took over about a month ago only 48 wells were working though we had sanctioned and constructed 303 wells costing us nearly Rs. 25 lakhs? When I went into

the question I was told that there was some difficulty in securing electric connection from the NDMC. I have been assured by the Additional Chief Engineer of the construction that all these wells should go into operation within a month or two. I will certainly try and see that they do go into operation before the monsoon sets in.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** May I know whether any alternative study to avoid costly pumping has been made in order to reduce sub-soil water level?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** We have taken steps in four or five directions and if the hon. Member wishes I can give him the information. A line of porous pipes was laid in the Central Vista. Economy in the use of unfiltered water for irrigation lawns is being exercised. Work for regrading of lawns and gardens has already been taken up. A scheme for providing underground drains in Central Vista to drain out rain water expeditiously and to avoid percolation in the soil has been sanctioned and the work has been completed.

#### Repatriation of Portuguese Nationals

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\*740. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**  
 { **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**  
 { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in repatriation of 3000 Portuguese soldiers detained in India; and

(b) the expenditure incurred so far on these soldiers by Government of India?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh):** (a) Under the Agreement reached with the Government of Portugal regarding repatriation of the Portuguese internees, about 4,400 persons are being taken by air from Goa to Karachi in aircraft chartered by