

**Legislation to Control Exploitation of Ground Water**

2906. SHRI T.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAPPA:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Drinking Water Mission has recommended for the introduction of suitable legislation by State Governments to control the exploitation of ground water resources by industrial units;

(b) if so, whether Government have addressed the Chief Ministers of States in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Most of the States/Union Territories have considered the question of introducing suitable legislation to control exploitation of ground water. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh have taken positive steps for introducing the legislation. In Bihar, restrictions have been imposed on sanction of minor irrigation schemes in areas categorised as 'dark and grey'. The other States have not yet decided on introduction of the legislation.

**Crisis in Kerala Cashew Industry**

2907. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cashew industry in

Kerala is facing a serious crisis;

(b) whether Government have made any study regarding the prevailing crisis; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take to help the industry and the cashew cultivators in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Gram Panchayat Elections in Punjab**

2908. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold elections for Gram Panchayats in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the election schedule drawn up for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Elections are likely to be held shortly.

[Translation]

**US Military Bases in Pakistan**

2909. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA:  
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:  
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF-