

(b) whether the entrance and the channel leading into the harbour and the entire basin require dredging on a large scale;

(c) whether Government are considering any steps to have this operation taken up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINAHAN): (a) to (d): The facts are being ascertained from the Government of Kerala and the Sabha will be apprised of the facts in due course.

Tube-Well_s of Central Ground Water Broad lying idle in Kerala

1752. SHRI NEELAL CHITHADASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that 9 tube wells constructed by the Central Ground Water Board are lying idle in the districts of Trivandrum, Kottayam, Alleppey, Trichur, Madappuram, and Ernakulam in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the Government are having any proposal to use them;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the State Government of Kerala has requested the Chairman, Central Ground Water Board to get these tube wells transferred to the State Government free of cost;

(d) if so, action taken in this respect; and

(e) whether the Government propose to give directions to the Central Ground Water Board to transfer these tube-wells to the State Government free of cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Ground Water Board has been constructing exploratory wells with the objective of collection of scientific data for exploration and assessment of ground water resources. While these test wells have thus fully rendered the economic benefit expected of them by way of furnishing scientific information the approach has been that these wells should be handed over to the States for production purposes, i.e. utilisation for irrigation or drinking water. These tubewells are handed over to the State Governments on payment of costs as per norms fixed by the Government of India.

Accordingly, 9 tubewells constructed by the Central Ground water Board in Kerala were offered to the Government of Kerala on payment. Many letters have been addressed to the Government of Kerala but they have not so far taken over these wells.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Government of Kerala had requested for handing over these tubewells free of cost in 1979. However, in accordance with existing policy the request of the Government of Kerala could not be agreed to and they were informed accordingly. A sub-group was recently set-up by the Central Ground Water Board to go once again into the question of pricing of these wells with a view to facilitating handing over tubewells to the State Government. The sub-group has recently submitted its report which is under consideration of the Government.

Arbitration cases against Friends Central Government Employees Co-operative House Building Society "

1753. SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases were admitted for arbitration in accordance