

Tube-Wells in the Country

10182. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of tube-wells in the country; and

(b) how many out of them are working on diesel engines and how many on electricity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) It is estimated that about 31.50 lakh Nos. tubewells have been installed in the country upto March 1984. Information about how many of these tubewells are working on diesel engines and how many on electrical motors is not available. However, according to the available information, the estimated number of electrical and diesel pumpsets installed on dugwells, tubewells and surface water sources in the country upto March 1984 is as under :—

	(lacs Nos.)
Electrical pumpsets	53.50
Diesel pumpsets	33.74
	87.24

Increase in Rice Production

10183. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the production of rice in the country to meet the increasing demand of rice;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) the names of rice producing States and what are the details of facilities being given to these States for increasing the production of rice during the year 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) There is a proposal to increase rice production from 59.33 million tonnes in 1983-84 to 63 million tonnes in 1984-85, the terminal year of the Sixth Five Year Plan,

(g) The thrust of the strategy for increasing rice production would be :—

1. Maximisation of yield in Irrigated areas, through adoption of high yielding technology.
2. Optimisation of yield in upland and problem areas in low lands through appropriate Technology.
3. Seed multiplication of location specific varieties and their spread.
4. Increase in Plant Population through (i) closer spacing in transplanted area (ii) Line sowing in direct seeded areas.
5. Increase in fertiliser use.
6. Removing micronutrient deficiency.
7. Integrated Pest (Insect/diseases/weeds) Management.

(c) Rice is produced in all the States. Financial assistance is provided to the States under the Central Sector Schemes viz., (i) Establishment of Community Nurseries of Rice, (ii) Minikit Demonstration of Rice and (iii) State Level Training Programmes, for increasing rice production. Under the Community Nurseries Programme, a subsidy @ Rs. 1500/- per hectare is provided to the farmers for raising rice nursery. Similarly, minikits containing seed of high yielding varieties of rice are distributed free of cost among the farmers. For conducting State level training programmes in Rice Production Technology a sum of Rs. 7200/- is provided for each course.

During 1984-85, an outly of Rs. 500 lakhs has been sanctioned for imple-

mentation of the above schemes. The scheme-wise details are given below :—

1. Establishment of Community Nurseries of Rice.	Rs. 348.75 lakh
2. Rice Minikit Demonstration	Rs. 145.85 lakh
3. State level Training Programme on Rice Production Technology.	Rs. 5.40 lakh
Total	Rs. 500.00 lakh

Posting of Staff in Foreign Countries by N.B.C.C.

10184. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that NBCC is posting its regular staff on works undertaken by it in foreign countries;

(b) if so, what is the criteria of selection and the maximum period of stay on foreign posting;

(c) whether it is a fact that some employees have been/being posted for second time when others have not been given the chance even for once;

(d) how many employees have been given chance for the second time and the reasons thereof; and

(e) will the Government lay down some policy for giving equal opportunities to all members of the staff for foreign posting ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF) : (a) Yes.

(b) The NBCC has reported that following criteria is laid down for selection :

(i) Employees are asked to give option foreign posting.

(ii) Such of them who opt are selected for foreign posting with reference to the following criteria :

(A) Past service/service in the grade

(B) Job suitability

(C) Employees availability depending upon exigencies of work. In addition, where persons with requisite experience/expertise are not available in the organisation itself, persons are taken on deputation from other Govt. departments such as CPWD, CRRI, DGBR, CAG after proper selection.

Employees are posted for a period of 2 years but in any case, the period will not exceed 4 years.

(c) Yes.

(d) 33 employees have been selected for the second time. Their selection has been made in accordance with criteria mentioned at (b) above.

(e) No.

Payment of Employees Provident Fund by N.B.C.C.

10185. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :