

Narain also is expected to be given one soon.

(c) Eviction proceedings have been initiated against 96 former Members and 4 ex-Ministers, who are unauthorisedly continuing in Government residences.

### Groundwater

\*17. SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) estimated groundwater potential in the country;

(b) its actual utilisation todate;

(c) factors responsible for slow progress in this field; and

(d) whether any cheaper methods have been evolved for use of groundwater?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) On the basis of the present surveys and available data, the annual usable groundwater potential is estimated at about 280 milliard cubic metres.

(b) The estimated utilisation of groundwater potential since the inception of First Plan is given below:

Year	1950-51	1960-61	1965-66	Milliard cubic metres 1968-69	1973-74
Groundwater Potential utilised	39	49	57	72	105

(c) The figures given in (b) above will show that the overall progress of groundwater development has not been slow but satisfactory, particularly after the periods 1965-66. The progress, however, has not been commensurate with the potential available in the States of the Eastern Region. There have been some inherent constraints in the development of groundwater in this region. This include:

- (i) Occasional and supplemental nature of demand for irrigation because of high rainfall.
- (ii) Small and fragmented holdings standing in the way of investment on wells and tubewells privately owned on individual basis.
- (iii) General weakness in the cooperative structure of financing.
- (iv) Incomplete land records leading to difficulties in processing

and sanctioning of loan applications.

(v) Rural electrification programme not making sufficient headway due to lack of infrastructure of power lines.

(d) Yes, Sir. Cheaper methods such as use of coir strainers, bamboo pipes, cavity development, pneumatic equipment for boring and deepening of wells in hard rock areas, etc. have been introduced in the field of groundwater development during the last decade.

### Non-fixation of Wheat Procurement Target

\*18. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for the wheat procurement this year;