

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. CHANDRAPPA: 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;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether this policy would affect the continued supply of a minimum quantity of foodgrains through the public distribution system, especially in deficit States; and

(d) what is the quantity of procured wheat and rice with the Government at present and what was the quantity of the same in 1975-76 and 1976-77?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL):

(a) and (b) As it has been decided that the purchase of wheat on Government account will be only by way of price support, it has not been considered necessary to fix procurement targets for wheat for 1977-78.

(c) The Government are holding adequate stocks of foodgrains and are in a position to supply whatever quantities of wheat and milo are needed for meeting the requirements of the Public Distribution System. The supply of grain through the Public Distribution System will not, therefore, be affected. Moreover the removal of zonal restrictions on movement of wheat is expected to ensure better open market availability of wheat in the deficit States.

(d). The foodgrain procured indigenously and imported from abroad get merged into a common pool from which the Public Distribution System is fed and it is not feasible to indicate the two separately. The total stocks available with Govt. on 31st March, 1975, 31st March, 1976 and as on 31-3-1977 are indicated in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(In '000 tonnes)

Date	Grain	With Central Pool	With State Governments	Total
31-3-75	Rice	783	1073	1856
	Wheat	602	365	967
	C. Grains	40	183	223
	TOTAL	1425	1621	3046
31-3-76	Rice	2261	2462	4723
	Wheat	4346	513	4859
	C. Grains	550	350	900
	TOTAL	7157	3325	10482
31-3-1977*	Rice	4236	2013	6249
	Wheat	9711	1411	11122
	C. Grains	391	274	665
	TOTAL	14338	3698	18036

*Provisional—Subject to revision.