

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). It is the policy of Government to keep broadcasting and television free from foreign influence.

MACHINERY TO ASSIST PEASANTS IN LOCATING GROUND WATER FOR DIGGING IRRIGATION WELLS

*1495. SHRI K. N. PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any machinery to assist the peasants to locate the availability of ground water to dig irrigation wells; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three agencies, namely, the Geological Survey of India, the Exploratory Tubewells Organisation of the Department of Agriculture and the hydrogeological organisations set up in several States, are engaged in prospecting and assessment of available groundwater resources for promoting the groundwater development programme and assisting peasants in constructing irrigation wells/tubewells. The GSI has been mainly concentrating on prospecting (mostly through geo-physical techniques) and hydrogeological mapping. The E.T.O. has been carrying out exploratory drilling (including pumping tests) in areas considered to be groundwater worthy as a result of initial prospecting by the G.S.I. With further expansion of the groundwater development programme towards the end of the Third Plan, it was felt that the Central agency alone would not be able to provide the required day-to-day hydrogeological support to the expanding programme and groundwater development in hand. The Department of Agriculture therefore initiated in 1967 a Centrally sponsored

scheme to set up hydrogeological organisations in the States which may be responsible for providing this immediate support. Several States have already set up hydrogeological units and the others are in the process of doing so. The activities of the State organisations include : (a) collection, compilation and analysis of the data available, (b) filling up the gaps in information by test drilling and other studies; (c) formulating and scrutinising development schemes; (d) disseminating available hydrogeological information in the form of maps, guidelines, pamphlets indicating the design and spacing of suitable wells for use by local agencies, private and public, concerned with ground water, and (e) providing consultancy service to the farmers in such matters as pin-pointing sites for the wells and design of the wells and the type and size of water lifting appliances to be installed.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITIES OF INDIAN FILMS

*1496. SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Films in their theme and presentation compare favourably with films produced in the West and U.S.S.R.; and

(b) if not, the steps taken to improve the quality of Indian films ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Every film whether produced in India or abroad has naturally its own theme and manner and quality of presentation. Therefore, a generalised comparison between Indian films and films produced in different countries in the West and in USSR will not be appropriate. The best Indian films compare favourably with the best films produced in the West and the USSR, and those have received international recognition at several Film Festivals.

(b) Does not arise.