

instance; and to provide for construction of irrigation sources and land development, free-of-cost, for the target group, as the secondary objective. The Million Wells Scheme funds, being part of wage employment funds, can be used for open wells only provided they are the cost effective method in comparison to tubewells and borewells. Construction of borewells and tubewells cannot be taken up under this scheme. Where wells are not feasible due to geological factors, the earmarked funds under the Million Wells scheme may be utilised for other schemes of minor irrigation like irrigation tanks, water harvesting structures and for the development of lands of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and freed bonded labourers, including ceiling surplus land or Bhoodan lands etc. Allotted to them. The provision cannot be diverted for any other scheme nor for categories other than the target groups.

- (ii) 20 per cent of the total allocation to a State/UT under Jawahar Razgar Yojna (JRY) is earmarked for Million Wells Scheme. 15% resources earmarked under JRY for SC/ST works can also be used for the Scheme.
- (iii) The cost/areas norms in regard to works under MWS will be decided upon by a Committee comprising or Chief Secretary, Secretary (Rural Development), Secretary (Planning), Secretary (Irrigation) and Chief Engineer, Minor Irrigation of the State.

- (iv) The beneficiaries themselves will be asked to undertake the construction of their wells through their own labour and the local labour for which they will be paid. In no case, the work will be entrusted to a contractor by the project authorities.

[*Translation*]

Working of FCI

704. SHRI R. N. RAKESH:
SHRI MANJAI LAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Powered Committee on Agricultural Policies and Programme on "Alternative Food Security System" has commented upon the working of the Food Corporation of India, as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 2nd May, 1990;

(b) whether Government have taken steps to implement the advice of the experts in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The High Powered Committee on Agricultural Policies and Programmes has since given its final Report, which is under examination.