

THAW IN SINO-U.S. RELATIONS

240. DR. SALIG RAM:

SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported thaw in the Sino-U.S. relations; and

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment of its impact in Asia?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is aware of a series of measures recently taken by the U.S. Government to improve relations with China but there has so far been no indication of any response to these measures on the part of China. It is too early to expect to see any impact of this development on Asia as a whole.

CHEAP PROCESS OF MAKING NUCLEAR BOMB

241. SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a cheaper process has been developed for the production of Nuclear Bomb which can be within the economic reach of under developed and developing nations; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review its defence strategy in view of this new development?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) There have been reports about the theoretical possibility of making a cheap Hydrogen Bomb by replacing the fission trigger with a very powerful laser beam. Work has also been undertaken on the centrifugal process for the separation of the fissile isotope of uranium. If successful, these may reduce the cost of nuclear weapons in future.

(b) If by "defence strategy" the Honourable Member has in mind change in Government's nuclear

policy, Government believe that the present policy of developing our scientific and technological capability in expanding our programme for the peaceful uses of atomic energy is in the best overall interest of the nation. However, in this matter, as in others, Government keep their policy under constant review taking into account the needs of our national defence and security.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF BAROOAH COMMITTEE ON TEA INDUSTRY

242. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1047 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th December, 1969 and state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Barooah Committee on tea industry have since been examined by Government; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) and (b) The examination of the recommendations of the Barooah Committee will be finalised shortly.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN KERALA

243. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have allotted Rupees two crores to the Government of Kerala for executing irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, the names of the irrigation projects which would receive financial benefit from this allocation?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) and (b) With a view to accelerating the work on selected major projects which are in an advanced stage of construction, it has been agreed to assist the Government of Kerala in increasing the outlay on Pamba and Kuttiadi irrigation projects in 1969-70 by Rs. 75 lakhs each, and on minor irrigation by Rs. 50 lakhs.