

of the properties involved and also to start discussions regarding the restoration of seized properties in terms of the Tashkent Declaration.

INTER-STATE WATER DISPUTE

1079. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :

SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of water disputes which are pending at present between the various States in India; and

(b) the present position of those disputes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) There are four major inter-State river water disputes, *viz.*, those relating to the Krishna, the Godavari, the Narmada, and the Cauvery, which are pending settlement.

(b) The first three disputes *i.e.*, those relating to the Krishna, the Godavari and the Narmada, have been referred for adjudication to Tribunals set up under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.

All the aspects of the present Cauvery dispute are under careful consideration of the Government of India with a view to finding out how the dispute can be settled.

CASHEW BOARD

1080. SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIR: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to constitute a Cashew Board;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the proposal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) and (b) A proposal for constituting a Cashew Board is under consideration. Its details, however, are yet to be worked out.

BIG FOUR CORRESPONDENCE OVER WEST ASIAN SITUATION

1081. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India was consulted informally by the big countries *viz.*, U.K., U. S. A., France and U. S. S. R., over the present explosive situation in West Asia relating to which these powers were in correspondence; and

(b) what steps India is taking to help settle this problem and also to save these big countries from a big war?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government of India fully support the Security Council Resolution No. 242 of November 22, 1967 and subsequent efforts aimed at implementing it.

DISTRICT AS UNIT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING

1082. SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI: SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India propose to treat District as the unit for economic planning; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) The Planning Commission has advised the States to formulate their Plans on the basis of their own potentials, problems and priorities. For this purpose, they have been advised to take up local area planning preferably at the district level.

(b) Does not arise.

REGIONAL PLANNING

1083. SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI: SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the manner in which Government propose to encourage and assist regional planning;