

alleged illegal possession of some parts of Bhutanese territory by the Chinese; and

(b) what further steps are being taken by the Government of India to redeem the illegal possession?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) The protests lodged recently by the Government of India with the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi at the instance of the Government of Bhutan related to certain intrusions into Bhutanese territory and not to any possession of Bhutanese territory by the Chinese.

There has been no reaction from the Chinese Government so far.

(b) Does not arise.

KEEPING INDIAN OCEAN FREE FROM NUCLEAR POLLUTION AND WARLIKE ACTIVITIES

615. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD; SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI; SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) the steps which are being taken by the Government of India and other Asian countries including Mauritius to keep the Indian Ocean free from nuclear pollution as well as from warlike activities of other countries; and

(b) what further the measures to be taken in this connection collectively or otherwise; and how many countries are cooperating in these efforts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) The Government of India's view is that the Indian Ocean shall remain an area of peace and co-operation. Recently the Prime Ministers of India and Mauritius have re-

iterated that the Indian Ocean should be kept a nuclear-weapon-free area.

(b) The Government of India have mooted a suggestion for an international agreement or convention, to ensure respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the countries in the region. This has been noted by all concerned governments.

IMPORT OF CASHEW NUTS AND CASHEW-SHELL LIQUID

616. SHRI NIREN GHOSH : SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL : SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there has been a substantial fall in the import of cashew-nuts and cashewshell liquid last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the fall; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a fall amounting to 32,000 tonnes valued at Rs. 3.8 crores in the import of raw cashew nuts during the last year. India does not import cashewnut shell liquid.

(b) The main reason for fall in the import of raw cashewnut was insistence of Indian banks in September, 1969, on opening letters of Credit for only 90 per cent of the value of raw cashewnuts imported from East Africa with the balance of 10 per cent to be paid after quality inspection, weight etc., instead of 100 per cent of the value of imports.

(c) The following steps have been taken to remedy the situation : —

(i) Imports of cashewnuts are being allowed from East African