

PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c). A paper study of the possibility of inter-linking of rivers in the country was attempted by the Central Water Commission in 1971. It was, however, considered that before a view could be taken of any elements of such schemes, it is essential to first study, in depth, the position of surpluses and shortages in various regions, basins/sub-basins *vis-a-vis* the possibilities for economic inter-basin and inter-regional transfer of water taking into consideration the minimum needs of drought prone areas. A separate Unit under a Chief Engineer has recently been set up in the Central Water Commission and the necessary field work is being organised. The State Governments have also been addressed for supply of requisite data. It is expected that some preliminary reports on the feasibility of some of the links should be available in the course of next 3-4 years.

Inter-State Disputes re: Use of River Waters

*18. SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of inter-State disputes regarding use of river waters;

(b) the extent to which continuance of such disputes has affected the well being and economic development of the people of India;

(c) whether Government propose to nationalise the use of river waters for rational utilisation in the interest of the country; and

(d) if so, the particulars of time bound plan, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) The main pending disputes relate to Narmada Godavari and Yamuna rivers.

The disputes relating to Narmada and Godavari waters are being adjudicated upon by the Tribunals set up under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.

In the meantime, however, in the case of Godavari Basin, concerned States have agreed on substantial allocation of Godavari water for new projects. In the case of Narmada Basin too, the States have agreed to take up work on four smaller schemes each in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Detailed studies about the Yamuna Basin have been carried out in consultation with the concerned States and the matter is proposed to be discussed with the States' representatives in the near future.

(b) Since the available funds for irrigation projects have been fully utilised, it could be said that disputes have not materially affected the development of the country as a whole so far but there has been consequent delay in the undertaking of certain projects in the disputed basins affecting the development of specific areas.

(c) and (d). The question of direct involvement of the Centre in the planning of the uses of waters of inter-State rivers and other related matters is under active examination.

Land Reforms

*19. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDRAM:

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:

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

(a) the concrete steps taken during the last seven months to expedite land reforms so as to effect increased production and to bring about social and economic justice to the weaker sections;

(b) the magnitude of the problem; and