

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Deal with U. K. for the Supply of Vicker Tanks

*1594. SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any deal with U. K. Government for the supply of Vicker Tanks has been finalised; and

(b) If so, the broad outlines thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Programme for Regional Co-operation at the Economic Commission for Asia and Far East

*1595. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to State :

(a) whether India passed for a time bound programme for regional co-operation at the Economic Commission for Asia and Far East which began its annual conference in Bangkok recently; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reaction thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) At the 26th Session of ECAFE held at Bangkok in April, 1970, India urged the completion of work relating to regional trade development and liberalisation and payments arrangements according to the time-table endorsed at the 13th Session of the ECAFE Committee on Trade. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress made in these fields and expressed the hope that the ECAFE Secretariat would try its best to complete the remaining work in accordance with the time table endorsed by the Committee on Trade.

(b) According to the time-table for formulating schemes of regional trade development and liberalisation linked with clearing and payments arrangements endorsed by the Commission and Committee, following the high-level consultations with

non-regional experts in March 1970 at Brussels, a group of experts from various member countries of the region is to be set up to assist the Secretariat in evolving alternative schemes. These schemes would be sent to countries in the region to serve as a basis for high-level consultations later during the year between an ECAFE expert mission and policy making officials in the different countries. On the basis of these consultations the Secretariat would finalise the drafts proposals and transmit them to the Governments in advance of the meeting of Government and Central Bank officials to be held before the end of the year. Meanwhile, the third meeting of National Units is likely to be held sometime in June to consider the preparations for these consultations and meetings.

Establishment of Thermal Power Station in Gujarat

*1596. SHRI R. K. AMIN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) how many proposals to establish thermal power stations have been received by the Government of India from Gujarat State during the 4th Five Year Plan;

(b) If so, whether these proposals include a thermal power station in North Gujarat;

(c) If not, whether the Government of India is aware of the agitation for inclusion of such power station; and

(d) If so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) A proposal for the establishment of a Thermal Power Station at Ukal in South Gujarat during the Fourth Plan has been received.

(b) to (d). The State authorities have reported that they are carrying out necessary survey and investigations for formulating a scheme for setting up a thermal station in North Gujarat. The proposal will be considered as soon as the scheme report is received from the Government of Gujarat.