

correct decision, India has tabled a draft resolution which adopts a positive and constructive approach to the question of creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in an appropriate region of Asia, after consultation among the countries concerned.

P.L.O. to set up Government in Exile

**1575. SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE;
SHRI SARJOO PANDEY:**

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are maintaining any contact at any level with P.L.O led by Mr Arafat;

(b) whether Government are aware of the decision of P.L.O. to set up a Government in exile; and

(c) if so, the stand of Government of India with regard to Palestinian question in present context?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) In view of Government's well-known stand in support of the Palestinian cause, there have been contacts with the PLO leadership through diplomatic channels, as in the recent case of India's co-sponsorship of the item entitled "The Question of Palestine" in the current UN General Assembly Session. There is also in Delhi an Arab League Office dealing with Palestinian affairs and the P. L. O.

(b) Government are aware of reports to this effect.

(c) Government's stand is well known. There can be no just settlement of the West Asia problem unless Israel vacates all Arab territories occupied by armed aggression and restores to the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

Delay in settling retirement dues of employees in Marine Department of Calcutta Port Commissioners

1576. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of **SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is abnormal delay in settling the retirement dues of the employees in the Marine Department of the Calcutta Port Commissioners,

(b) the minimum and maximum time lag between the retirement of an employee and the payment of the dues during the last three years; and

(c) whether any special consideration is shown to employees hailing from outside Calcutta for settlement of dues to obviate the need for periodical visits to Calcutta for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Depending upon the receipt of complete set of documents, normally payments are made within six months. Some delay takes place in cases of settlement concerning deceased employees due to time taken in getting police verification reports and completion of estate duty formalities.

(c) The Port Commissioners' Provident Fund and Pension Rules do not provide for any special consideration to any category of employees in respect of pension settlement. However, every effort is made by the Port Commissioners to avoid hardship to the employees concerned.

Strengthening Homoeopathy Treatment in the Country

1577 DR. SARADISH ROY Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to strengthen the homoeopathy treatment in our country; and

(b) if so, the outlines of the plan?