

consideration of Government to set up any Department to look after the interests and the welfare of the Indian Nationals who have settled abroad ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Statutory Water Supply and Sanitation Boards at Regional and State Levels

2903. SHRI E. K. NAYANAR : Will the Minister or HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has suggested the establishment of Statutory Water Supply and Sanitation Boards at the Regional and State levels in his presidential address at the 13th meeting of the Central Council of Local Self Government ; and

(b) if so, the powers of the Sanitation Boards, and how much help from the Central Government would be given to those Boards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is for the States to set up the proposed Statutory Boards to define their exact powers. It is however felt that these Boards should be empowered to construct and to carry out improvements to the water supply and sewerage works within their jurisdiction and to manage them on a self-supporting basis. They may also have powers to raise funds from the open market by floating loans or debentures to supplement their finances. The Central Government has no proposal to give any financial help in this regard. The Central Government can however help the State Governments in formulating the guide lines for the constitution of these Boards and in other technical matters.

Arrangements for Storing of Molasses

2904. SHRI K. N. TIWARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether molasses pits of the sugar factories are full of molasses in Bihar and Eastern U. P.; and

(b) if so, the arrangement Government are making for storing of new molasses so that the factories may work smoothly during 1970-71 season ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) Both the States of Bihar and U. P. have substantial surplus of molasses. 25,000 tonnes of molasses have been allotted from Bihar to West Bengal while 60,000 tonnes of molasses from U. P. have been allotted for export through the State Trading Corporation. The lifting of this surplus stock has so far been poor.

(b) Consultations have been held with the West Bengal Government and the State Trading Corporation for organising early lifting of the stock. It is expected that a large part of last year's stock would be cleared shortly, so that the new molasses can be stored in the cleared pits.

Assault on an Employee of M. E. S. Office Edathala, Ernakulam District, Kerala by Army Personnel

2905. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an employee of the M. E. S. Office, Edathala, (Ernakulam District), had been assaulted by some army personnel on the 25th October, 1970 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the action taken by Government to bring to book the guilty persons concerned ; and