

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR):** (a) The Report of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Committee was forwarded to the State Governments on the 30th May, 1962. In regard to the recommendation of the Committee for the formation of urban and rural assessment committees, reports have not so far been received from all the State Governments. From the few replies that have so far come in, it, however, appears that the recommendations of the Committee are still under consideration of the State Governments and as far as we are aware, no such assessment committee has yet been formed.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### WATER AND DRAINAGE BOARDS

**\*219. SHRI JAI NARAIN VYAS:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendation of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Committee on setting up of independent statutory bodies styled as "water and drainage boards"; and

(b) if so, whether those boards have been or are proposed to be set up State-wise or region-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR):** (a) and (b) Necessary action on the recommendation of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Committee relating to the setting up of independent statutory "water and drainage boards" is to be taken by State Governments to whom copies of the Report have already been sent. Replies from the State Governments are yet awaited. A proposal for setting up a non-statutory drinking water board in the Union Health Ministry is under consideration.

#### SETTING UP OF INDEPENDENT HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

**\*220. SHRI JAI NARAYAN VYAS:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken by the Ministry of Health to set up an independent Health Engineering Department in the States as recommended by the National Water Supply and Sanitation Committee in 1960-61; and

(b) which States have set up such independent departments?

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR):** (a) Action for the setting up of independent Public Health Engineering Departments is to be taken by the State Governments. The copies of the Report of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Committee have been sent to them for necessary action.

(b) Independent Public Health Engineering Departments already exist in the States of Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Orissa and West Bengal. In Madras a separate Public Health Engineering Department has been created only recently. The replies from other States are awaited.

#### VISIT OF FOOD SECRETARY TO WASHINGTON

**\*221. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:** Will the Minister of Food AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the object for which the Food Secretary recently visited Washington?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI A. M. THOMAS):** To undertake the annual review of the P. L. 480 Agreement of May, 1960 with the officers of the U.S. Government.

#### PROPOSAL FOR TAKING OVER KATA-KHAL-LALAGHAT SECTION

**\*222. SHRI S. C. DEB:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to