

National Sugar Institute, Kanpur

1333. SHR. B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are examining the memorandum from the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur for revitalising and strengthening of the Institute; if so, the details thereof and Government's action thereon; and

(b) whether Government propose to reorganise the NSI and link it directly with the sugar industry by having effective representation of the producers and industry on its governing body with sufficient powers and authority to deal effectively with its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) No memorandum has been received by Government from the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur regarding revitalisation and strengthening of the Institute. However, a memorandum has been received from the NSI Officer's and Technical Staff Welfare Association, listing various difficulties, administrative and procedural, experienced and making suggestion for improvement. Government are constantly keeping under review the functioning of the Institute and have for this purpose the benefit of the guidance of an Advisory Board consisting of representatives of the sugar industry, eminent professionals and the Director of the Institute. The difficulties and problems faced by the Institute in carrying out the assignments entrusted to it will continue to be reviewed so that the Institute functions effectively.

Air station at Jowai

1334. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Meghalaya had submitted a proposal for instal-

lation of an All India Radio Station at Jowai; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) The Jaintia Hills area including Jowai, will be well served by the new 100 K. W. medium wave transmitter of AIR at Shillong. This has been installed and is to be commissioned shortly.

The question whether it would be possible to set up a new Radio Station at Jowai will be known only after the Seventh Five Year Plan proposals are approved.

The above position has been conveyed to the State Government of Meghalaya.

Fertilizers shortage in Meghalaya

1335. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage and untimely supply of fertilizers to potato farmers and other cultivators of Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The State Government had reported some difficulty in timely availability of Single Super Phosphate during the current season.

(b) The concerned manufacturing units were asked to rush supplies of Single Super Phosphate against existing and additional allocations to the tune of 2625 tonnes of Single Super Phosphate to meet the requirements of the State.