

Citric acid upto a certain stage. Further work, is in progress.

(b) There is no proposal at present.

(c) The work is based on submerged fermentation where Citric acid producing organism (*Aspergillus niger*) is incubated alongwith the raw material (sugar) and other salts.

PEOPLE LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

289. SHRI KRISHNARAO NARAYAN
DHULAP : SHRI R. D.

JAGTAP AVARGO-ANKAR :

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN;
SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREE-
NIVASA RAO :

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the number of persons who are living below the poverty line; and

(b) If so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI) : (a) No Sir. The number of persons below the poverty line was estimated in the past from the data on household consumption expenditure provided by the National Sample Survey Organisation, after making certain assumptions on the per capita expenditure required for minimum level of living. These assumptions varied from one expert to another. Fresh studies are required in this area for a reliable assessment of the number of persons below the poverty line, (b) Does not arise.

**PAPER MILLS IN JAOIROAD AND NORTH
CACHAR HILLS**

290. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURA-
GOHAIN : SHRI NRIPATI
RANJAN CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in setting up the proposed paper mills in Jagiroad and North Cachar Hills in Assam; and

(b) whether production in the proposed mills will commence within the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): (a) Preliminary work on the two projects including preparation of detailed Project Reports and engineering drawings for plant layout and for long delivery equipment items has been completed, tenders for long delivery equipment issued, and site clearance commenced. The offers for long delivery equipment items are under examination.

(b) Production from the proposed mills is expected to commence around 3^{1/2} years after placement of orders for long delivery items. It is expected that the Nowgong plant will go into production by around the end of 1980 and the Cachar plant a year later, by the end of 1981.

**RIOTS AND HARASSMENT IN THE MEERUT
DIVISION OF UTTAR PRADESH**

291. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN :

SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some incidents of communal nature took place in the Meerut Division of Uttar Pradesh recently;

(b) whether some cases of harassment of Harijans were also reported from the same area; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Standing instructions require that the State Governments should remain vigilant, take all precautionary measures to prevent occurrence of communal incidents and institute enquiries into all communal incidents of serious nature. The District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police have been made personally responsible for dealing with communal disturbances. Deterrent action is taken against erring officers.