

PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The site has been selected and the land required for the project has been frozen by the Government of Assam.

(c) No firm indication can be given before the Project Report is prepared.

SILCHAR STATION OF ALL INDIA RADIO.

670. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) when the proposed station of the All India Radio at Silchar is likely to start broadcasting regular programmes;

(b) how many persons are expected to be employed there; and

(c) whether local people of the district will be given preference for employment in the station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY): (a) In about two months' time.

(b) 82.

(c) Yes, Sir, to the extent job requirements permit.

LINKING OF ASSAM, MIZORAM AND TRIPURA UNDER MICRO-WAVE SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATIONS

671. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to link Cachar district in Assam, the Union territory of Mizoram and the State of Tripura under the Micro-wave system of communication ; and

(b) if so, when !

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) Microwave system of communication linking Cachar District in Assam with the State of Tripura (Agartala) is under execution. There is no microwave system under execution or planned for linking Cachar District in Assam with the Union Territory of Mizoram.

(b) The Shillong-Silchar Agartala Microwave system is likely to be commissioned during 1973-74.

GRANT OF PENSION TO POLITICAL SUFFERERS

672. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to grant pension to political sufferers ;

(b) if so, what will be the basis for determining the eligibility of pension in respect of a political sufferer unable to produce certificate from the jail where he was imprisoned ; and

(c) what procedure will be laid down in respect of those political sufferers who suffered imprisonment in jails which are now in Pakistan or Bangladesh ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F.H. MOHSIN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government propose to grant pension in deserving cases to those freedom fighters who had undergone imprisonment in the mainland jails for a period of not less than six months before Independence, and also to their families where the freedom fighters are no longer alive. The families of martyrs who gave their lives for the freedom of the country will also be eligible for grant of pension.

(b) Eligibility will be determined on the basis of the verification report of the concerned State Government.

(c) Reports from the Governments of the States where the freedom fighters are normally resident will be taken into account to determine eligibility.

GRAPHITE ELECTRODES INDIA LTD.

673. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only one factory at Durgapur, viz. Graphite Electrodes India Limited, producing graphite electrodes in India ;

(b) whether the capacity of the said company is only 5,000 M. T. against the estimated requirement of 25,000 M. T. of Graphite Electrodes in the country in 1973-74 ;

(c) whether a fresh letter of intent lease has further been issued in favour of the company for the establishment of another factory at Bangalore with a capacity of 5,000 M. T. graphite electrodes ;

(d) whether Government also propose to establish a factory in the public sector in Assam with a capacity between 15 to 20 thousand M. T. of graphite electrodes in order to meet the entire requirement of the country; and

(e) whether a letter of intent has also been issued in favour of the Bihar Industrial Development Corporation for the establishment of graphite electrodes project in North Bihar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The capacity of the factory is for manufacture of 5400 tonnes of graphite electrodes and anodes per annum.

(c) The manufacture of graphite electrodes does not attract the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. Hence a letter of intent is not necessary. However, the firm's proposal for setting up another unit at Bangalore for a capacity of 5450 tonnes has been approved.

(d) There is a proposal to set up a public sector unit in this industry. The capacity is however, yet to be decided.

(e) As already stated a letter of intent is not required in this industry. Government of Bihar have shown an interest in setting up a unit for manufacture of graphite electrodes in the State ; their firm proposals regarding capital goods, foreign collaboration, if any, and other related matters have not as yet been formulated by them.

ISSUE OF BOGUS MONEY ORDERS IN CALCUTTA

674. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has recently unearthed a gang of cheats? who used to issue bogus money orders of high amount and then collect their proceeds in Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the names of the persons arrested in this connection and the action taken or proposed to be taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) On receipt of certain money orders for payment, the staff of Park Street Post Office (Calcutta) suspected their genuineness and after verification these were found to be bogus. The matter was reported to the C. B. I. who unearthed the gang of cheats.

(b) 1. Shri Jyotirmoy Das, Clerk, Joy nagar Mozulpur Post Office (Calcutta). 2. Shri Suresh Ch. Das, U. D. Clerk,