

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : *Indian Administrative Service*—In September, 1956, a special examination was conducted by the Union Public Service Commission for recruitment to the Indian Administrative Service. Certain categories of Central and State Government employees as well as employees of State owned Corporations or Undertakings within the age group of 25 years to 40 years were eligible for appearing in that examination.

Indian Economic Service—*Ho* special examination with relaxed age limit has been held so far. However, not the first two examinations held in 1967 and 1969 for direct recruitment to the Indian Economic Service the upper age limit was relaxed to 35 years from normal age limit of 26 years.

(b) No, Sir. Government are, however, considering the recommendation made by the Administrative Reforms Commission that every one who has completed six years of service in Government and is less than 35 years of age may be given one chance to sit for the open competitive examination for Class I non-technical services, irrespective of the chances already taken, provided that he fulfills conditions relating to educational qualifications.

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT SANGLI IN MAHARASHTRA

667. SHRI G.R. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on the construction of the building for the automatic telephone exchange at Sangli in Maharashtra State :

(b) whether the work on it has since been completed; and

(c) if so, by when the automatic telephone exchange would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA) (a) : Rs. 17.35 lakhs spent.

(b) and (c) No. The work is in progress and it is likely to be completed by the end of December, 1972. The Exchange, however, is expected to start functioning during 1974-75.

SONG AND DRAMA DIVISION OF A.I.R.

668. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to whether it is fact that the Song & Drama Division Staff Association has submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister to redress their grievance against the authorities, if so, with what results?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINGH) : A statement showing the action taken on the demands contained in the letter dated 3-2-1972 addressed to the Prime Minister by the Song and Drama Division Employees Association is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix LXXX, Annexure No. 49J]

PAPER MILL IN CACHAR

669. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the site of the proposed paper Mill in Cachar, Assam has been finally selected;

(b) if so, by when Government propose to take possession of the land; and

(c) when the proposed mill is expected to start producing paper?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR

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.