

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.