

chases of Tripura jute by the Buffer Stock Association and state:

(a) whether any quota of jute was purchased by the said Association during 1961-62;

(b) whether there is any proposal for the purchase of any quantity of jute in the year 1962-63 by the said Association; and

(c) if so, the quantity thereof?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) 1,75,000 bales of low quality jute have so far been purchased by the Buffer Stock Association.

(b) and (c). Purchases of jute by the Association in 1962-63 will continue in that season. The intention is that buffer stock operations should continue on a long term basis to impart stability to the market.

B.I.C. Concerns, Kanpur

2908. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the concerns of B.I.C., Kanpur are being taken over by Shri Bajoria of Calcutta;

(b) if so, on what terms and conditions;

(c) whether shares purchased by the Central Government are being retained;

(d) whether Central Government nominees will be on the Board of Directors;

(e) if so, their number; and

(f) whether Central Government will nominate the Chairman?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The Central Government are not aware of any such proposal for the present.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f). Since 23rd May, 1958, the composition of the Board of Directors (Interim Committee of Management) of the B.I.C. has been fixed from time to time by the High Court, Allahabad. In its judgement delivered on 14th February, 1962, the High Court directed *inter alia* that the Interim Committee of Management should call a general meeting of the company in January, 1963 to elect a Board of Directors which should come in office from 1st February, 1963. Recently, some shareholders have filed an application before the High Court praying for a direction for calling an early general meeting of the shareholders for electing a new Board of Directors. There will be no nominees of the Central Government on the Board. The total number of directors to be elected by the shareholders will depend upon the orders of the High Court on the said application and the Articles of Association of the company. The Central Government and the Life Insurance Corporation of India, have, however, agreed to the said application being moved before the Allahabad High Court on the understanding that the new Board of Directors to be proposed for election by the shareholders should be one the constitution of which is approved by the Central Government. In view of the above, the question of nomination of the Chairman by the Central Government does not arise.

All India Radio Engineers

2909. Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he made a statement in New Delhi on the 27th May, 1962 to the effect that the service conditions of All India Radio Engineers needed improvement; and

(b) if so, what specific steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Shri Sham Nath): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.