

Study by Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore on Rural Development

3430. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to studies made by Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, that for meaningful rural development, social marketing by firms selling their products to villages is an invaluable requisite; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to utilise this technique for bringing about desirable changes in the rural scene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri N. V. Ratnam, Professor of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, has been included as a member of the Working Group on Integrated Rural Development. The report of this Working Group, when finalised, will be considered for future programming in the sphere of Integrated Rural Development.

Increase in Minimum Price of Sugarcane

3431. SHRI RAM DHARI SHASTRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will announce increase in minimum prices of sugarcane keeping in view the announcement in regard to reduction of excise duty on sugar by the Finance Minister; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Building for North-Eastern Hill University

3432. SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-Eastern Hill University is still being run in rented buildings; if so, the total amount being spent on rents monthly;

(b) whether the site for the University complex has been selected and the Master Plan finalised; if so, the reasons for delay in starting the construction works; and

(c) when the construction work is expected to be started and by what time it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (c). According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, a site measuring about 1,025 acres for the building complex of the North-Eastern Hill University has been selected, and on the basis of an architectural competition, the Master Plan for the University complex has also been finalised. The University authorities are presently completing the required formalities for starting construction of the buildings and the work is likely to be completed in a period of about six years.

In the absence of its own buildings, the University is functioning in buildings acquired or rented by it, or made available by the State Government for its use on a temporary basis.

Expenditure on Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi

3433. SHRI A. E. T. BARROW: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state: