

**Agricultural College in Manipur**

137. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received demands from the State Government of Manipur and Voluntary Organisations for the establishment of an Agricultural College in Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider setting up of a Agricultural College in Manipur to meet the popular demand; and

(d) if so, when?

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

(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research had received a request for financial assistance to a private college in 1978. Later the Government of Manipur informed Indian Council of Agricultural Research that they would like to establish a Government Agricultural/Horticultural College. This proposal was discussed by the Director-General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research with the Government of Manipur in May, 1979. A detailed proposal from the Government of Manipur is still awaited for consideration of the Government of India.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

**Automatic Telephone Exchange in Imphal**

138. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in respect of introducing automatic Telephone Exchange for the whole of Imphal town;

(b) whether the Government are aware that there has been inordinate delay in the matter;

(c) whether Government propose to speed up the matter and fix a firm date line for the completion of scheme;

(d) if so, the likely date of completion; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) The introduction of installation of automatic exchange at Imphal has been approved in principle. Advance action is being taken for taking up the construction of a building.

(b) to (e). The indigenous production of automatic exchange equipment is limited. The supplies are not adequate to meet even the expansion requirements of existing automatic exchanges. It is also not possible to import equipment for stations like Imphal due to techno-economic reasons. Efforts are being made to expand the manufacturing capacity within the country. It is hoped that it will be possible to take up installation in 1983-84.

**Indefinite closure of Jawaharlal Nehru University Centre at Imphal**

139. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the circumstances which led to the recent indefinite closing down of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Centre in Imphal and the steps being taken to solve the crisis;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint a body to study the whole thing;

(c) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the alternative thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRI-MATI RENUKA DEVI BARAKATAKI): (a) to (d). According to the information furnished by the Jawaharlal Nehru University, a section of the students led by the President of the Students' Union went on lightening strike on 12th April, 1979 without prior notice to the Director of the Centre. On 16th April, 1979, the students circulated a statement containing 30 demands and announced that they would boycott the classes as long as their demands were not met. One of the demands was the immediate dismissal of the Director of the Centre. Since the students continued their strike and did not allow the faculty, the staff and the Library to function in spite of attempts at negotiations by the faculty members and the staff, the Administrative Committee of the Centre at its meeting held on 17th April, 1979, resolved to close the Centre.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. K. J. Mahale, Rector, Jawaharlal Nehru University to review the working of the Centre from its inception. The Committee visited Imphal and had discussions with the students' leaders, the Director of the Centre, the faculty members and the administrative staff. They also held discussions with the Chief Minister and Education Commissioner of Manipur and a few Principals of local colleges.

During their discussion with the Committee, the students insisted that the Director of the Centre should be dismissed immediately. The Review Committee did not, however, agree to this demand on the spot and there was some violence. The students threatened to continue the agitation even after 4th July, 1979, when the Centre was due to reopen.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University has written to the Education Com-

missioner of Manipur that unless the charges against the Director are proved after thorough and impartial examination, it will not be possible for the University to remove him from office. He has also appealed to the Education Commissioner to use his good offices for getting normalcy restored as quickly as possible.

As the matter is exclusively within the competence of the University authorities to decide, the question of appointment of a Committee by the Government does not arise.

#### Central Assistance for Development of Manipur

140. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government of Manipur have approached the Government of India for financial and technical assistance for the development of the capital city Imphal and other district and sub-divisional headquarters;

(b) if so, the nature and extent of the assistance sought and whether the Government of India have made any response in this behalf; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to give special financial and technical assistance to Manipur and similar small states of the North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) A proposal for development of Greater Imphal under Integrated Urban Development Programme (IUDP) was received.

(b) and (c). A seed capital of Rs. 120 lacs was sought for IUDP scheme for Imphal. The scheme of IUDP has since been discontinued. In lieu of this, another scheme for integ-