

**Hirakud Workshop**

\*1534. Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hirakud workshop has been handed over to the Government of Orissa;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) whether the Orissa Government is proposing to sell the workshop to private industrialists?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether there is any proposal to transfer the control of the Hirakud workshop to the Orissa Government?

Shri Hathi: Not yet.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether this workshop will be transferred only when the Hirakud project is transferred to the Orissa Government?

Shri Hathi: I think in the normal course, it should be so.

**International Sugar Agreement**

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\*1535. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:  
Shri Jimachandran:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 409 on the 1st December, 1958 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken final decision regarding becoming a party to the new International Sugar Agreement;

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know the names of other countries who had become members of this agreement?

Shri A. M. Thomas: All major exporting countries have become members, except India. The matter is being considered. There is no time-limit fixed for joining the agreement. Various aspects have to be considered by our Government before deciding one way or the other.

**Medical Colleges**

\*1536. Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the period for M.B.B.S. course has been reduced from 5 years to 4½ years uniformly in all the Medical Colleges in the country;

(b) whether after completing this 4½ years M.B.B.S. course, the students are made to undergo compulsory practical training for an additional period of one year as internees in Medical Colleges;

(c) whether the Indian Medical Council in a new regulation has asked the State Governments not to give stipends to these internees; and

(d) whether according to this new regulation any State Government has stopped paying stipends to internees working in Medical Colleges?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): (a) and (b). The Medical Council of India recommended for adoption to the Universities a minimum period of study of 5½ years for the M.B.B.S. course consisting of either (i) 4½ years course plus 1 year internship or (ii) 5 years course plus 6 months internship. Most of the Universities have adopted the first alternative.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri Panigrahi: In answer to part (c), the hon. Minister has stated that there is no regulation from the Indian