

(c) whether any legal proceedings against the Birla Group of Companies have been taken;

(d) whether some of these firms have been black-listed on the ground of these irregularities and malpractices; and

(e) if the reply to parts (c) and (d) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) Government have taken note of the observations made by Dr. Hazari in his Report regarding the number of licences approved for Birla Group of companies.

(b) No specific instances of irregularities or malpractices committed by the Birla Group in securing industrial licences have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

**Theft of Railway property at Jamalpur Station**

574. Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:  
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:  
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3468 on the 28th August, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the police investigation into the theft of railway property, viz., scrap, copper plates and scrap benches at Jamalpur has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Fozacha): (a) and (b). The Government Railway Police, Jamalpur after completing their investigation have submitted charge sheets against contractor and six others under sections 409/406/379/411/34/109/119 I.P.C.

and section 3 of Railway Stores (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1955. Three railway employees found involved in this connection have been placed under suspension. The case is still under trial.

**Ashoka Marketing Limited**

575. Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:  
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:  
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 780 on the 7th April, 1967 and state:

(a) whether the arbitrator has since decided the question of allowing the Ashoka Marketing Limited, the loss of \$ 733,758 on their transaction with American buyers;

(b) the stage reached in the investigation of the Company's Affairs under sections, 237(b) and 249(1) (a) of the Companies Act and the Writ Petition and appeals in the Calcutta High Court; and

(c) whether there has been any delay in the disposal of the arbitration/Writ/appeals in respect of this Company?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) No, Sir. The Government understand that in January last, the company referred the matter to the arbitration of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta. The company filed with the arbitrators its statement of the case after the Chamber agreed to act as arbitrators. The arbitrators have sent a copy of the statement to the parties in the United States to enable the latter to file their reply. It is learnt that the matter will be set down for hearing as soon as the parties in the States send in their reply.