

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :
SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN

Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 549 on the 23rd July, 1968 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of appointment of a Commission of Inquiry on the Birla Group of Industries;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter;

(c) when the Commission is likely to start functioning; and

(d) if reply to part (a) above be in the negative, when the decision is likely to be taken and the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) The nature of the appropriate machinery to be set up is still under the consideration of Government.

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

(d) An early decision is now expected. The reason for the delay is that there are still some allegations concerning various Ministries on which Government have yet to take a final view.

PROSECUTION OF M/s. GUZDAR KAJORA COAL MINES LTD. AND M/s. CALCUTTA SAFE DEPOSIT CO. LTD.

*699. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4337 on the 19th March, 1968 and state:

(a) the action taken up to date by the Registrar of Companies against M/s. Guzdar Kajora Coal Mines Ltd. for offences under Sections 143, 150, 193, 285, 292, 297, 301, 303 and 307 of the Companies Act;

(b) The progress made with the prosecutions pending against M/s.

Calcutta Safe Deposit Co. Ltd. for similar offences;

(c) whether Government are aware that thousands of small and medium depositors will be ruined if the firm mentioned in part (b) above is asked to wind up; and

(d) how Government propose to protect the interests of these depositors?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) As stated in reply to the Unstarred Question No. 4337 of 19th March, 1968, it was decided that under the circumstances no useful purpose would be served by launching prosecutions under different sections mentioned which appeared to have been contravened. It was considered that the better course would be to apply to the Court for winding up of the company. The liquidator can have a thorough probe and appropriate action as may be called for thereafter will be taken. Necessary steps for winding up are being taken and it is expected to move the Court shortly.

(b) This company did not contravene all the Sections mentioned in (a) excepting Section 285 relating to not holding the Board of Directors meeting periodically. For the reasons stated in (a) above, no prosecution was launched for this and other technical defaults but it was decided to apply to Court for winding up of this Company also. For defaults under Sections 210 and 220 in respect of filing the company's accounts for the years 1964-65 onwards, the company and its directors were convicted for default in 1964-65. The case relating to 1965-66 is pending and prosecution for 1966-67 accounts is being launched.

(c) It is seen from the published balance-sheets of the Calcutta Safe Deposit Co. Ltd. that it has not accepted any deposits from the members of the public.

(d) Does not arise.