

**C. B. I. Probe into Birla Group of Concerns**

- +  
 \*273. SHRI S.M. BANERJEE :  
 SHRI KAMESHWAR  
 SINGH :  
 SHRI JYOTIROY BASU :  
 SHRI RAM AVTAR :  
 SHARMA :  
 SHRI YAJNA DATT  
 SHARMA :  
 SARI GEORGE FERNAN-  
 DES :  
 SHRI E.K. NAYANAR.

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of Investigation has probed into some of the Birla group of concerns;

(b) if so whether any report has been submitted; and

(c) the action taken in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY, : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation have undertaken investigation of certain cases against the Birla Group of concerns at the instance of the concerned Ministries.

(b) The report have been submitted by CBI to the concerned Ministries.

(c) Charge Sheets were filed in court against various concerns in the Birla Group as per details given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—202/169]

**Probe into charges against Birla Group of Industries**

- \*274. SHRI UMANATH :  
 SHRI P. GOPALAN :  
 SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN :  
 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :  
 SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :  
 DR. RANEN SEN :  
 SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL

DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of charges examined by Government out of 97 charges made in the memorandum submitted by Shri Chandra Sekhar, M.P., to Government against the Birla Group of Industries;

(b) the findings on each charge;

(c) the action taken on each charge;

(d) what are the charges still to be examined; and

(e) when the examination is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) :

(a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library See No. LT—203/169]

**Enquiry against Birla Group of Concerns**

- \*284. SHRI OM PRAKASH  
 TYAGI :  
 SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :  
 SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :  
 DR. SUSHILA NAYAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4878 on the 17th December, 1968 and state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision by now about conducting an enquiry into the Birla Group of concerns;

(b) if so, the nature thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the inordinate delay that is taking place in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) :

(a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

## STATEMENT

(a) to (c) : Government have since given careful consideration to the nature of the machinery that may be set up to go into the allegations which required enquiry and action. Government consider that investigation of these allegations has already been given to the highest possible machinery under the laws in force in the country. Cases investigated by the authorities which reveal contravention of law, rules or regulations can be speedily referred to the tribunal which has the authority under the law to assess, penalise or inflict punishment. In order, however, to maintain a close check and follow-up in respect of the investigations which are still continuing and also for expedition of the cases now before the various tribunals, Government have decided to appoint a special Commissioner of high status with a judicial background and experience in legal affairs, in the Cabinet Secretariat, to co-ordinate investigation and bring up matters for Government decision quickly.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE** : Birla should be laid on the Table of the House.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU** : The report has not yet been laid on the Table of the house. In view of the fact that the Central Cabinet will collapse if a proper enquiry had been instituted against Birla because half the Ministers or their relations are in the pay of the Birlas...*(Interruptions.)*

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (Dr. RAM SUBHAGH) SINGH** : He is himself in their pay.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU** : I am ; otherwise why should I ask this question?

**Mr. SPEAKER** : May I request the hon. Member to put his question ? Institutions will have retaliation. I read his remarks the day before yesterday; his remarks including those on the Chair were very uncharitable. He goes at a tangent and makes remarks which are not dignified for Parliament. He says that half of the Ministers are in their pay ; they reply that he is himself in their pay. Where will this lead to ? The question

is not whether any Minister or Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu is in the pay of Birlas or somebody else. The question is about the industries of Birlas.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU** : Because the Government wanted, they are going through some sort of a mild enquiry. The Birlas have threatened that they will organise large-scale defections in Bihar and U. P.

**SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA** : Non-sense. Is he taking advantage of the question hour to make insinuations?...*(Interruptions.)*

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU** : Before the CBI search was conducted, they were informed and the Birlas burnt all the papers, which is within the knowledge of the Gujarat police in Ahmedabad. May I ask whether the Government will institute a public enquiry under the Commission of Enquiry Act and if so, within what date ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED)** : So far as the first insinuation is concerned, it is baseless...*(Interruptions.)*

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU** : Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha's son has got their agency...*(Interruptions.)*

**Mr. SPEAKER** : Without notice you cannot go on throwing slanders against everybody ; I will not allow it. You have asked a question ; he is answering it. If you have anything else you can bring a separate motion in this House.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU** : You did not allow me to say things.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED** : There is not basis whatsoever for the allegation that Ministers are in the pay of Birlas. If he has any specific case, I would challenge him to place it before the house so that we can go into it.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU** : I should be allowed.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : He must give notice ; I shall consider it. I cannot

say anything offhand, simply because the hon. Minister has thrown a challenge and the hon. Member says that he must be allowed.

**SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM :** But, Sir, a challenge has always been held to be unparliamentary! (*Interruption*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** Order, Order. The Minister can answer the next part of the question.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** So far as the question is concerned, the Government have examined all the allegation made, including the allegations made in Mr. Chandrasekhar's three memoranda, and have come to the decision that on the basis of their examination these cases are not such where a Commission of Inquiry is warranted. They have looked into these cases and wherever action was necessary it has already been taken.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :** My second question is this. In view of the seriousness of the allegations that have been brought against the Birlas over the last few years, and most of which are true and correct, will the Government care to issue an order stopping the award of licences and grant of foreign exchange to them ?

**F. A. AHMED :** Every case has to be decided on merits, and the decision will be taken on merits, and there is nothing to warrant that any particular licence should be stopped. (*Interruption*)

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :** Their merit is tarnished. You are allowing them licences. (*Interruption*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** Order, Order. There are a number of other Members waiting to put questions, Shri Banerjee, Shri Indrajit Gupta and others. Please do not monopolise the Question-Hour by your own questions.

Several Hon. Members *rose*—

**DR. SUSHILA NAYAR :** Sir, can an hon. Member go on speaking and saying that they are sheltering this, that and the other ? (*Interruption*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** He does not know what he is talking. (*Interruption*) Shri Banerjee.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** In reply to question 273, it appears from the statement that certain charges have been framed, and item Nos. 1, 2 and 3 relate to the Technological Institute of Textiles, Bhiwani, the Birla Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills, Delhi, and Bhiwani Textile Mills, Bhiwani, respectively, and the charges are under section 120B, IPC, read with section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, and section 420 IPC. I must congratulate the Birlas for scoring a hat-trick under section 420! Now, my question is, whether the CBI report has been considered by the Government and, if so, what is the specific objection to lay a copy of that report on the Table of the House.

As was evident from yesterday's newspapers—you must also have read it—there was a controversy in the Central Hall and the Deputy Prime Minister and everyone of them defended Birlas and said that they have not done anything wrong ; it may be correct. In view of these things, I would like to know, after the charges have been levelled by various persons including Mr. Chandrasekhar, whether the Congress Government's decision not to refer the cases to a Commission of Inquiry is a political decision or it is based on the report which they have received.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** So far as the first question is concerned, on the basis of the CBI report, charge-sheets have been submitted,.....

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** My question is, why don't you lay the report on the Table of the House.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** The charge-sheets have been submitted to the court ; it is a public document, and if the hon. Member wants any particular information a copy of it can be obtained. On the basis of the charge-sheets, in respect of five matters, the matter has been also gone into, and if the hon. Member wants to know the stage of the decision, that has also been indicated, and I can inform the hon. Member what is the stage of those cases ; in respect of three cases where the charge-sheets have been submitted, the matter is still pending.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** That was not my question. Either my question should be expunged or the reply should be expunged ! I have read the charges. My question is, what is the specific objection in laying the full report on the Table of the House. I also asked whether the decision of the Government of India is a political decision.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** Till the cases are disposed of, the report cannot be placed on the Table in public interest. So far as the charge-sheet is concerned, it is a public document and he can obtain it.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** He asked whether the decision is political.

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** The decision is not political. It is on merits.

**श्री यशवन्त शर्मा :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, बिरला जी के सम्बन्ध में जो कुछ भी जांच का काम किया गया, कांग्रेस एग्जिक्यूटिव कमेटी के निर्णय में उसका जिक्र है कि समाजवाद की अपनी कल्पना पर कांग्रेस ने आखिरी कफन पहना दिया। मुझे सरकार से यह जानना है कि क्या सरकार के अन्दर कोई ऐसा ढांचा है जो कि कम्पनियों के धन सम्बन्धी इस प्रकार के आरोपों पर या घोटालों पर, उन आरोपों या घोटालों की रोकथाम के लिए निगरानी रखता हो और सरकार को उसकी ठीक ठीक जानकारी देता हो और सरकार उसके सम्बन्ध में कार्यवाही करती हो यदि सरकार के पास ऐसा कोई ढांचा है तो राज्यसभा में श्री चन्द्रशेखर द्वारा लगाए गए आरोपों के पूर्व, उसने कितनी इस प्रकार की अव्यवस्थाओं के सम्बन्ध में सरकार को जानकारी दी है ?

**श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद :** यह सवाल बहुत लम्बा चौड़ा है। जहां तक कि कम्पनीज का ताल्लुक है, हमारा इन्स्पेक्शन होता है, एनुअल इन्स्पेक्शन भी होता है वक्तन-फवक्तन हमारी नजर में अगर कोई चीज आती है तो हम स्पेशल इन्वेस्टिगेशन भी करते हैं। अगर कम्पनीला के प्राबिजिन्स के खलाफ कोई काम

होता है तो भी हम ला के मातहत उनके खिलाफ एक्सन लेते हैं।

जहां तक उन एलिंगेशनज का ताल्लुक है जो कि श्री चन्द्रशेखर के मेमोरेंडम में हैं, इनकी हमने अच्छी तरह से खानबीन की है और उसके बाद में जो एक्शन जिस जिस ला के मातहत होना चाहिए था, वह लिया है। जो एलिंगेन्स वेग थे, उनके बारे में भी हमने बतलाया है, जिसमें प्राइमा-फेसीं एविडेंस नहीं है उनके बारे में भी बताया है। ये तमाम चीजें राज्य सभा के सामने रख दी गई हैं। इस वक्त इसमें 11 या 13 ऐसे केसेज हैं ... (इयवधान) .. जिनमें अभी भी इन्वेस्टिगेशन की जरूरत है और उसके लिए हमने एक स्पेशल कमिश्नर एप्वाइन्ट किया है जो कि जल्द से जल्द एक्सपेडाइट करके हमारे सामने रखेगा।

**श्री यशवन्त शर्मा :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री जी ने यह कया कही है। मेरा सीधा प्रश्न था कि सरकार के पास कोई ढांचा है और यदि है तो राज्य सभा में लगाये गये आरोपों से पूर्व, वह ऐसे कितने केसेज सरकार के सामने लाया हैं ? हर बार तो चन्द्रशेखर नहीं चाहिए ? आपने सी० बी० ब्राई० की रिपोर्ट पर भी पानी फेर दिया और कांग्रेस वकिंग कमेटी द्वारा कमीशन की मांग को भी आपने टालकर एक आफिसर को यह काम सौंप दिया है। अगर ये मगर-मच्छ पलते रहेंगे तो फिर समाजवाद कहां जायेगा ? ... (इयवधान) ...

**श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद :** मैंने आपसे कहा था कि बहुत सारे केसेज हैं जो कम्पनीला के मातहत आते हैं। जिन केसेज का ताल्लुक कम्पनी ला से है उनका हमने इन्वेस्टिगेशन कराया है और जो एक्सन लेना था वह एक्सन लिया है। ... (इयवधान) ... कम्पनी ला के केसेज घाठ या सात हैं जहां तक कि मेरी मिनिस्ट्री का ताल्लुक है। घाठ इंडस्ट्रियल डिपार्टमेंट के केसेज हैं।

6 केसेज लाइसेंसिंग डिपार्टमेंट को रेफर कर दिए हैं। दो में प्राइमा-फंसी केस नहीं बनता है। एक केस में वेग एलिगेन्स हैं। इसी तरह से 44 केसेज हैं जो कि फानेन्स मिनिस्ट्री में आते हैं, कस्टम ड्यूटि और इनकम टैक्स के, और उनमें जो ट्राइव्यूनल है वह जांच कर रहा है। जहां तक इनकम टैक्स के केसेज खोलने की बात है, वह केसेज खोल दिए गए हैं।

**श्री यशवन्त शर्मा :** मेरे सवाल का उत्तर नहीं आया।

**श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त :** इन्होंने ने पूछा है कि ऐलिंगेशन लगाने से पहले आपके विभाग ने कितने कम्पनी केसेज में चीजे पकड़ी हैं ?

**श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद :** यह सवाल नहीं किया गया था। सवाल किया गया था कि जो ऐलिंगेशन है उस पर क्या किया गया। तो मैं ने कहा कि जहां तक कम्पनी का ताल्लुक है सिर्फ सात केसेज हैं और उन में हम ने ऐक्सन लिया है, और दो केसेज में ऐक्सन हाई कोर्ट ने स्टे कर दिया। और आठ केसेज इंडस्ट्री डिपार्टमेंट के हैं उन में से छह केसेज रेफर कर दिये हैं लाइसेंसिंग कमेटी को।

**श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज :** जो ब्यान यहां मन्त्री महोदय ने दिया है, जिस में कहा है कि हम जांच कमीशन नियुक्ती नहीं करेंगे, खैर उस से तो कोई संतोष होने वाली बात नहीं है। जो स्टेटमेंट आप ने सभा पटल रखा है उस में जैसे कि हिन्दुस्तान मोटर्स पर हूपलीकेट शेयर बनाने वाला जो आरोप है जिस के बारे में आप कहते हैं कि तीन कर्मचारियों पर आप मुकदमा चला रहे हैं, जब कि अध्यक्ष महोदय, किसी भी कम्पनी में, और खास तौर पर हिन्दुस्तान मोटर्स में, हूपलीकेट शेयर बनाने का काम कोई मामूली कारकुन या नौकर नहीं कर सकता है जब तक कि खुद श्री घनश्यामदास बिरला

हुकम न दें, तब तक किसी नौकर को हिम्मत नहीं हो सकती है कि वह हूपलीकेट शेयर बनाये। याद रहे कि मूँघड़ा वाले मामले में किसी नौकर को पकड़ने की बात हुई थी। इस किस्म के आरोपों पर मूँघड़ा को ही पकड़ने की बात हुई थी। तो क्या मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि तमाम जो आरोप हैं ये सारे आरोप कोई मामूली कारकून या अफसर के ऊपर नहीं, बल्कि तमाम बिड़ला कम्पनियों के ऊपर हैं। तो क्यों मंत्री महोदय जांच कमीशन नियुक्त करने से इन्कार करते हैं ?

दूसरे इस आरोप में क्या क्या तथ्य है कि मध्यावधि चुनाव के पहले कलकत्ता में एक बार नहीं, दो बार श्री बी० एम० बिड़ला से श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी जी मिलीं और सौदा किया कि चुनाव के लिये अगर चन्दा मिले तो मुन्हारे ऊपर जांच नहीं होगी और उसके अनुसार ही आज आप यह फैसला दे रहे हैं।

**एक माननीय सदस्य :** यह बिल्कुल गलत है।

**श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज :** यह बिलकुल सही है, यही बात है। प्रधान मंत्री ने सौदा किया है। यह आरोप में आज पहली बार लगा रहा है। सदन के बाहर भी मैं ने यह आरोप लगाया है और मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इसका साफ उत्तर दें।

**एक माननीय सदस्य :** यह बकवास है।

**श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज :** जांच के लिए तैयार हो जाइये।

**श्री ए० मो० बनर्जी :** बिड़ला से पैसा लिया इसलिए कलकत्ता में कांग्रेस हारी।

**फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद :** जहां तक पहले सवाल का ताल्लुक है जो हमने कम्पनी के केसेज वगैरह देखे और देखने के बाद जो रिपोर्ट हमें मिली उस के ऊपर जो कम्प्लेन्ट हुई और सी० बी० आई० ने इन-

क्यवारी की और जिन के ऊपर मुकदमा चल सकता था उन के ऊपर मुकदमे किये हैं जैसा यह कहते हैं कोई चीज और निकल आये और इससे ज्यादा मुजरिम हों तो उन के खिलाफ भी कार्यवाही की जायेगी। लेकिन जिन पर हम मुकदमा चला सकते थे वह क्रिमिनल कोर्ट में लाये है.....

**श्री मधु लियमे :** मासूम बच्चे की तरह बातें कर रहे हैं।

**श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद :** मैं यह भी कह देना चाहता हूँ कि इस में कम्पनी की तरफ से भी कम्प्लेंट आया था कि किन किन लोगों ने ऐसा किया। और वह चीज भी इस वक्त कोर्ट के सामने मौजूद है गलत है, सही है, कोर्ट इसका फंसला करेगा और वह हम सब को मालूम होगा।

जहाँ तक दूसरे सवाल का ताल्लुक है मैं कहता हूँ कि इस किस्म के बेसलैस चार्जज लगाने से कोई फायदा नहीं है और यह बिल्कुल गलत है कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने कोई ऐशयोरेंस दिया हो कि कैसेज विदडू कर लिये जायेंगे अगर पैसा देंगे। यह बेबुनियाद और गलत है।

**श्री मधु लियमे :** आपने उत्तर नहीं दिया। तालियां क्यों बजाते हैं।

**श्री रवि राय :** मुलाकात हुई थी कि नहीं प्रधान मंत्री की? (ब्यवधान)

**श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डोज :** मैं ने अध्यक्ष मयोदय, बिल्कुल स्पष्ट प्रश्न पूछा था कि क्या यह सच है कि दो बार कलकत्ता में बी० एम० बिड़ला और प्रधान मंत्री की पिछले दो महीनों में मुलाकात हुई और आप ने उस मुलाकात के अन्दर यह सौदा किया कि जांच नहीं की जायेगी। और इस का सबूत यहि है कि इतनी बदमाशी करने के बावजूद भी आप ने एक भी बिड़ला कम्पनी को आज तक ब्लैक लिस्ट नहीं किया है।

**श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद :** यह बिल्कुल गलत है कि सौदा हुआ है।

**श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डोज :** प्रधान मंत्री दो बार मिलीं या नहीं मिलीं? इसका उत्तर दीजिये।

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Minister has said—it is all *galat*. You may take it or leave it; I cannot compel the Minister to give any particular reply.

**श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त :** मुलाकात का मतलब सिर्फ पैसे से थोड़े ही है। और किसी का भी सौदा हो सकता है।

**श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद :** इस किस्म का सौदा हुआ यह बिल्कुल भूठ ऐलीगेशन है। और चूँकि वह मिले इसलिये यह सौदा हुआ यह कोई आगुमेंट नहीं हो सकता है।

**श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डोज :** मिली हैं न?

**SHRI P. GOPALAN:** If a close persual is made of the allegations made by Shri Chandrasekhar, it is easy to find that not a single Act, rule or regulation of this country has been left not violated by the Birlas. Yet these arch criminals are left scot free by the Government. The reason is very clear. Birlas are getting strong protection from higher-ups in government inside the Cabinet. In view of this, may I know whether this particular aspect of the problem, against which a specific allegation has been made by Shri Chandrasekhar, that some higher-ups in the government are responsible for protecting the Birlas and allowing them to carry on this dirty business, whether this specific problem was asked to be investigated by the CCI and if so, what is the report? If not, why was it not investigated?

**SHRI F.A. AHMAD:** So far as the allegations contained in the memorandum are concerned, there is no mention about the higher-ups. Whatever allegations are contained in the memorandum have been inquired into by us and action has been taken where found necessary.

**SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN:** Last year also we had an occasion to discuss this matter and much had been said when Shri Chandrasekhar raised this issue. Then it was mentioned both in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha that Shri Pant was in the pay-roll of Birlas before he became a Minister here. Another charge is that a lot of friends and relatives of Ministers, especially ladies, are being provided employment with fabulous salaries in the Birla empire. That was also discussed here. Then we were given to understand that one of our Cabinet Ministers, who at that time was not having any portfolio, namely, Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, was in the pay-roll of Birlas and his duty was to report to Birlas what takes place in the Cabinet meetings. Now the case of Birlas has been discussed yesterday and the day before in the Congress dropped and no inquiry is going to be Parliamentary Party as well as the Executive Committee of the Congress and we hear that it is going to be dropped and no inquiry is going to be instituted and no action is going to be taken against Birlas. In view of these facts and press reports, are we to take it that Government are dropping the proceedings against the Birlas because they are afraid of defection by the Birla-sponsored members, in case action is taken against them? If not, could they give an assurance that they will take action against the Birlas irrespective of the opposition from the Congress Party?

**SHRI F.A. AHMED:** I could not follow the question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** His question was whether Government is depending on Birlas or Government is afraid of Birlas.

**SHRI F.A. AHMAD:** We are not afraid of Birlas.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Indrajit Gupta.

**SHRI NAMBIAR:** What is the answer? It is a simple question. (*Interruption*).

**MR. SPEAKER:** There is only half a minute. That will be lost. If you do not want, I will pass on to the next item.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Sir, in the statement which is laid in reply to Starred Q No. 274, the hon. Minister has been very kind enough to do a neat job of tabulation for us but it throws no light whatsoever on the matter which we have raised, I find from the statement that out of 88 allegations which have been submitted by Shri Chandrasekhar, the statement gives some information regarding only 23 of those allegations. Please ask him not to try to total it up. It took me quite a long time. I can assure him that only 23 specific complaints have been mentioned in the statement as having been looked into or not looked into or found to be vague or found to be baseless, etc. etc. As far as the remaining 65 allegations out of 88 are concerned, we are given a piece of advice saying, "It is suggested that separate Questions may be tabled to enable the concerned Ministers to explain the position." In that way, 65 charges have been disposed of.

Now, whatever enquiries have been made or are being made are of a departmental nature. In similar cases, as you know, in the case of Sahu-Jain group or Mundhra group, the commissions of inquiry were appointed. I would like to know what is the reason for applying a different yardstick in this case because we cannot overlook the fact that in newspaper reports of the proceedings of the Congress Parliamentary Executive meeting—if they are wrong, they should be contradicted—some leading members who are Members of this House are quoted as saying, "We have to realise that we do require funds for the party." It is an important matter. It is on record. I can quote it from the papers. I want to know whether a different yardstick which is being applied in the case of Birlas is due to the fact that they are the biggest single donor of funds to this party and that is why, in their case, only departmental enquiries are being held. What is the reason for this discrimination?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED:** I would like to inform the House that so far as the demand of appointing commissions of inquiry is concerned, the commissions of inquiry are only to find out the facts on the basis of which some further action is

to be taken if we have to bring the culprits to book. Instead of wasting time for the purpose of finding out the facts, we have ascertained the facts and, wherever we have found that there has been an infringement of any statutory provision, we have already referred those cases for necessary action, for punitive action, and so on and so forth. It is not correct to say that only in respect of 24 cases we have taken some action and that in respect of other cases no action has been taken. As I have already indicated, there are 44 cases where the questions of infringement of income-tax law and customs duty are involved and they have been referred to the tribunal concerned for investigation and for taking necessary action. Where no *prima facie* case has been found, of course, no action has been taken. Therefore we have not lost any time whatsoever in bringing to book any cases where there has been any infringement of statutory provisions. On that ground, the Government cannot be blamed that they have not taken any action. Only in respect of 11 or 13 cases, where investigation is already proceeding, we have appointed a Special Commissioner to see that that is properly supervised and also expedited as early as possible so that necessary action may be taken under the provisions of law.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Question Hour is over.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The hon. Member, Shri Anirudhan, mentioned two Ministers. May I mention for your information that those two Ministers have clarified their position before the House ? Perhaps, it is not known to him.

MR. SPEAKER ; What he said is on record. If the Ministers want to clarify, I will not have any objection to that.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Committee to ensure coordinated functioning of Economic Ministries

\*275. SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL

TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to set up a high level Committee to ensure co-ordinated functioning of the various economic Ministries ;

(b) if so, whether the main purpose of this is to bring about effective utilization of the growing idle capacity in different public sector undertakings; and

(c) the name of the Members of the Committee and when they are going to submit their report ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F.A. AHMED) : (a) to (c), Government have under consideration a proposal to set up high-level committee for coordination of basic problems and issues relating to public sector plants including, *inter alia* a periodical review of the order position of these plants, particularly, the heavy machine-building and heavy electrical units, consideration of resource requirements and allocations to ensure effective utilisation of capacity besides review of capital structure etc. wherever necessary, together with any major issues and problems relating to these plants. The details of composition of the committee are yet to be finalised. From the nature of duties and functions devolving upon this committee, the question of submission of reports does not arise.

#### औद्योगिक विकास के क्षेत्रीय असंतुलन

- \*276. श्री सूरजमान :  
 श्री रणजीत सिंह :  
 श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :  
 श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :  
 श्री वृज नूषण लाल :  
 कुमारी कमला कुमारी :  
 श्री नारायण स्वरूप शर्मा :

क्या औद्योगिक विकास, आन्तरिक व्यापार तथा समन्वय-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने