

Working of Bird and Company

2230. SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the working of the Bird and Company Limited which has shown a loss of rupees one crore for the year ending 31st March; 78.

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government have since fixed the responsibility for the unsatisfactory state of affairs on the Board of Directors and Shri J. G. Kumaramangalam; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) The audited accounts of the Company for the year ending 31st March, 1978 reveal a loss of Rs. 113.44 lakhs.

(b) The reasons for the loss are stated to be acute shortage of working capital, impact of abnormal debits amounting to Rs. 55 lakhs approximately representing minimum bonus paid/payable for the years 1976-77 and 1977-78, book debts and other receivables relating to earlier years written off or provided for in the current year, loss on account of load shedding etc. Because of the feeling of uncertainty in the company, large number of experienced technical persons have left the company.

(c) and (d). The matter is under examination.

हरिजनों की यात्रा खासि के स्टारों का कार्यक्रम

2231. श्री सुबोधक ० श्री ० कल्याण : क्या देव मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जगता सरकार ने सारा में जाने के यात्रा जब तक हरिजनों तथा शिक्षित मधोवर्गियों को यात्रा, यात्रा, यात्रा के विस्तृत स्टार कार्यक्रम किये नये हैं ?

देव मंत्रालय में यात्रा मंत्री (श्री कल्याण सरकार): जगता सरकार बनने से अब तक,

पूर्व रेलवे पर केवळ हरिजनों की यात्रा खासि की विषयी के सिर्फ चार स्टार डेके कार्यक्रम किये गये हैं ।

Proposal to End Proxy Voting in Elections

2232. SHRI DHARMA VIR VASISHT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Legislative steps taken by Government to end miner and proxy voting in elections; and

(b) whether the Election Commission had proposed a draft legislation in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) No legislative steps have been taken by Government to end voting at elections by persons below the minimum age of voting. As regards voting by proxy, the electoral law does not provide for such a contingency. However, if the reference is to the problem of impersonation at elections, the same is punishable under section 171F read with section 171D of the IPC and it is a cognizable offence under the relevant entry in the First Schedule to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

(b) The Election Commission has made the following proposals for checking voting at elections by persons who are below the minimum age of voting:—

(1) Presiding Officers of polling stations may be empowered by law to check voting by persons who are apparently less than the minimum voting age.

(2) Voting by persons below the minimum voting age should be made an electoral offence.

As regards prevention of impersonation at voting, the Election Commission has suggested that the act of impersonation at an election may be made an electoral offence under the Representation of the People Act, 1951