

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Enquiry into Birla Affairs

9451. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether sixty-seven Advocates of the Supreme Court have urged the Prime Minister to order an inquiry into the affairs of Birlas and the Deputy Prime Minister under the Commission of Inquiry Act ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). The allegations against the Birla Group of companies have been examined in detail and a statement indicating the action taken in respect of these allegations has been earlier laid on the Table of the House. It will be seen from the statement that in a large number of cases, detailed inquiry, investigation and action has been taken or initiated through the most appropriate agencies of Government in each case. Allegations relating to licensing of industries have been referred to the Industrial Licensing Policy Inquiry Committee. Investigations are still proceeding in respect of some of the allegations while the matter is before the courts in respect of others. In order to maintain close check and follow up in respect of investigations which are still continuing or which are before various tribunals, Government have appointed a special Commissioner in the Cabinet Secretariat to coordinate such investigations and bring up the cases for early decisions of Government. In the circumstances, it is not proposed to set up a Commission of Inquiry.

Views Expressed by the Leader of Industrial Productivity Mission from Japan

9452. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mr. Toshliro Doko, leader of an Industrial Productivity Mission which visited India for two weeks in March, 1969 has stressed that an economic and political cooperation between India and Japan is essential for promotion of peace and development of Asia in the future ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) The delegation under the leadership of Mr. Toshio Doko visited India with the object of exchanging ideas on productivity efficiency, and to appreciate India's industrialisation which would provide great scope for fostering the trade and industrial collaboration between Japan and India. The leader of delegation, on the eve of departure, expressed at a press conference that there were immense possibilities of such a collaboration in three directions, viz.

(i) there were a number of products which each country produced which would be of interest to the other ?

(ii) there could be more Indo-Japanese ventures in India, the products of some of which would be of interest to Japanese Industries ; and

(iii) India and Japan could collaborate in setting up joint ventures in third countries.

(b) and (c). A list of manufactures and semi-manufactures which could be supplied by India to Japan for meeting the requirements of their highly sophisticated industries has been given to the delegation which also agreed to arrange to send to India a list of items in which the Japanese