

Regarding Bird & Co. Ltd. according to present information, neither Shri Jit Paul nor Shri B. P. Bajoria nor Shri K. K. Birla have acquired controlling shares of Bird Group of Companies and the management of Bird & Company is not aware of any offer being made by them.

Regarding M/s. Willard India Limited, it is noticed from the Annual Report upto 29-2-1980 furnished by the company with the Registrar of Companies, Kanpur that the names of Sarvashri B. P. Bajoria, Jit Paul and K. K. Birla are not found in the list of top 50 shareholders and as such these persons cannot be said to hold controlling shares in the said company.

Proposal for establishing a Supreme Court Bench in the South

†772. SHRI PILOO MODI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration for establishing a Supreme Court Bench in the South;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) at which place in the South this Bench would be established?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Article 130 of the Constitution provides that "the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President from time to time, appoint." No proposal in this connection has been received from the Chief Justice of India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

†Previously Unstarred Question 251 transferred from the 12th June, 1980.

Appointment of Producers in T.V. Centres

773. SHRI CHADALAVADA VENKATARAIO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the candidates selected for appointment to the posts of Producer in T.V. centres during March-April, 1979 were not of the level prescribed for such appointment; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider the question of their appointments to these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Production cost of Coal

774. SHRI CHADALAVADA VENKATARAIO: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the average cost of production of coal in the country; and

(b) whether there is considerable difference between the cost of imported and indigenous coal; if so, what is the percentage of difference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) According to provisional unaudited accounts of Coal India Limited and the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., the average cost of production of coal for the year 1979-80 is as follows:

Coal India Limited—Rs. 105.34 per tonne

Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.—Rs. 112.03 per tonne.

(b) Yes, Sir. The average price of the washed Indian Coking Coal is Rs. 280 per tonne whereas the cost Australia is around Rs 680 per of the imported coking coal from Australia is around Rs. 680/- per