

(d) whether it is a fact that the investigation has revealed that the 1972 bifurcation of the Birds-Heilgers Group was irregular;

(e) if so, who were the persons and parties responsible for these irregularities and who gained control of the Heilgers sub-group; and

(f) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See below]

(c) to (f) The interim report on Bird and Company Limited which was received only recently states *inter-alia* that there were irregularities in bifurcation of Birds—Heilgers group. This and other points brought out in the report are under examination. After completion of the same, the matter will be considered by the Company Law Board and such action as is called for would be taken.

Statement

The news item refers to the interim report on Bird and Company Limited submitted by the inspector appointed to investigate into the affairs of the company under Section 237(b) of the Companies Act, 1956. It is also stated in the news item that there was a cross holding of shares between Bird and Heilgers before the two companies split, and that Heilgers shares were taken possession of by Shri Pran Prasad's family on paying a price of Rs. 72 per share. While Heilgers sold back Bird shares it held at Rs. 202 per share. The news item also refers to the allegation that the pricing was contrived at by the then Board of Directors of Bird and Heilgers, of which Shri Pran Prasad was Chairman.

Expansion of the Torsha Bridge

*291. SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE:

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:

SHRIMATI PRATIMA BOSE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 413 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th March, 1978, and state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any representation for the expansion of the Torsha bridge near Cooch-Behar Railway Station on the Northeast Frontier Railway; and

(b) if so, what is Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the existing waterway is adequate, it is not considered necessary to extend the bridge.

Reward for information about oil and gas

*292. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

SHRI SAWAISINGH
SISODIA:

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-
BULLAH:

SHRI PRAKASH MEHRO-
TRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration to give rewards to those persons who give information regarding the presence of oil and natural gas in any area; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme?