

talks on the possibility of establishing collective defence arrangements for South-East Asia and the Western Pacific. Shortly before it was issued, the Government of India received a copy of the statement from the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom on behalf of his Government in the ordinary course of exchange of important information between the Commonwealth countries on matters of mutual interest and importance.

STAFF ARTISTES APPOINTED IN HIGHER GRADES

*646. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of stall artistes who have been appointed during the last two years to special posts like Supervisors, Directors and Advisors in the various stations of the All India Radio;

(b) what are their emoluments and qualifications; and

(c) whether any of them was earlier employed in the All India Radio; and if so, in what capacity and for what period?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KES-KAR): (a) Twenty-three persons have been appointed during the course of the last two years as Producers/Composers, Drama Producers, Advisers and Supervisors by the various stations of All India Radio. Even prior to this period, seven persons had been similarly appointed.

(b) Their emoluments vary between Rs. 400 to Rs. 950 per month. These persons are engaged in the direct work of programme production, whether it is in drama or music or light, music or spoken word items. They were selected for their competence in their particular line.

(c) Of these persons, ten were earlier employed in All India Radio, four

as Programme Assistants and six others as Staff Artistes. The services of three members of the regular staff are also being utilised for the special work.

SELLING OF COAL BELOW CONTROL PRICE

*647. SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement by the Coal Commissioner to the effect that coal was being sold by many colliery owners below the control price, and that the selling price of coal should be reduced;

(b) whether the Coal Commissioner had made any investigations into the cost price of coal and other factors of the industry before making that statement, and if so, whether Government will lay a copy of his report containing the results of his investigations on the table of the Council;

(c) if the Coal Commissioner had not made any such investigations as are referred to in part (b) above, what are the reasons for the conclusions embodied in his statement; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take on the statement of the Coal Commissioner?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) Government have seen a report of the observations said to have been made by the Coal Commissioner as published in the 'New Sketch' dated the 5th April 1954.

(b) and (c).. A report has been called for from the Coal Commissioner.

(d) The action to be taken will be considered on receipt of the Coal Commissioner's report.