

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) To combat the menace of touts, brokers and blackmarketeers indulging in sale of railway tickets at Delhi/New Delhi stations, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Computerised reservation system has been introduced thereby eliminating scope of manipulation by touts and staff.
- (ii) Frequent surprise checks against touts are conducted by Vigilance teams. 39 touts were apprehended and prosecuted during January—June, 1991.
- (iii) Checks are conducted in trains to detect passengers travelling on transferred tickets. A sum of Rs. 1,38,859 was realised from such passengers besides confiscation of tickets during January—June, 1991.
- (iv) The requisition slips are scrutinised and door to door verification is done in suspected cases to ascertain genuineness of the reservation.
- (v) Surveillance is kept on the activities of the reservation staff suspected to have collusion with touts.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Withdrawal of Gulf Surcharge by Indian Airlines

1771. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

DR. A. K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Gulf Evacuation surcharge at the rate of ten per cent of fare was levied on domestic fares of the Indian Airlines since September, 1990;

(b) if so, the amount collected as surcharges so far;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Government on the evacuation of Indians from Iraq, Kuwait etc. during the Gulf War;

(d) whether the Gulf surcharge has now been withdrawn; and

(e) if not, the reasons for continuing this levy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount collected by way of Gulf Surcharge from 26th September, 1990 till 30th June, 1991 is Rs. 54 crores approximately.

(c) The estimated expenditure on the evacuation was Rs. 300 crores approximately.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In the wake of an all round increase in costs, it has become necessary to continue with this surcharge.

Freight Subsidy for Supply of Coal

1772. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for freight subsidy for supply of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Freight subsidy for supply of coal is not practical for the following reasons:—

- (i) Coal is a bulk commodity of low value and, therefore, freight is a major element in its cost.

- (ii) Coal is produced in a large number of locations. Freight subsidy with too many producing centres and for a large quantity would pose insuperable difficulties.

Shutting Down of Oil Wells

1773. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the replies given on August 28, 1990 and February 26, 1991 Unstarred Question Nos. 3262 and SQ. 60 respectively regarding shutting down of oil well and state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the report of the Committee of technical experts; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee, the action taken by the Government thereon and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAD): (a) and (b) The report is under the consideration of the Government.

Power Connections to Unauthorised Colonies

1774. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "JJ Power connections breed encroachment" appearing in the Indian Express dated March 22, 1991;

(b) if so, the details of action likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the survey has been conducted in Delhi to determine the number of persons who have taken light direct from the poles; if so, the details thereof, area-wise;

(d) whether employees of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking are also involved in this power theft; and

(e) if so, the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) No formal survey has been conducted by DESU to determine the number of persons who have taken light direct from the poles. However, according to DESU, there are more than 600 JJ Clusters in Delhi and the inhabitants of such areas illegally draw electricity by direct tapping from the street light poles provided by the Delhi Development Authority/Delhi Administration. Attempts made by DESU to prevent theft of power in such cases is resisted by unlawful elements of the localities creating law and order problems. DESU does not support the observations made in the said news item that the provision of power connections to JJ Clusters and unauthorised colonies encourages illegal encroachment. DESU carries out the electrification of only those unauthorised colonies which are covered under the directions issued by the Delhi Administration/Delhi Electricity Control Order, 1959. In case the unauthorised constructions/encroachments are removed by the concerned authorities, DESU can remove its service lines. Specific cases of connivance of DESU staff in the theft of power are looked into by DESU for appropriate action.

Opening of Booking Centres in Hilly Areas, U.P.

1775. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer the reply given on May 22, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 9819 regarding Railcum-Road reservation centres (Out