

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(d) whether the Gulf surcharge has now been withdrawn; and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