

(b) if so, his reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURFSHI) (a) Yes

(b) There is no proposal to link Nanjangud with Vythiri. Prima facie the traffic that is expected to offer on the suggested rail link, would be too small to make it financially viable, because a survey carried out for another rail link in this area, namely from Mysore to Fellicherry, revealed that it would be highly unremunerative.

**Black Market in the sale of Tickets for Rajdhani Express**

9652 SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to the news item appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated the 13th April, 1973 to the effect that tickets of Rajdhani Express are being sold in Delhi in black-market and that a sum of Rs 40- is being charged extra per tickets, and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER IN THE DEPUTY MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURFSHI) (a) Yes

(b) Certain Travel Agencies not recognised by the Railway Administration are reported to be securing reserved accommodation in various trains including 102 Dn Rajdhani Express for intending passengers on collection of extra amount and in the process indulging in malpractices in some cases. To curb malpractices in reservations, preventive checks are carried out at Reservation offices and on trains and whenever any persons are found to indulge in malpractices, through enquiries are made and proper action including prosecution wherever possible is taken. The Government is fully alive to the problem posed by the unrecognised Travel Agencies. A Committee of Members of Parliament is also currently looking into various problems arising out of the existing rules and procedure pertaining to the sale of tickets and reservation of train accommodation and to suggest measures to stop malpractices and irregularities.

**Replacement of Petroleum Products by Nuclear Power**

9653 SHRI R V SWAMINATHAN - Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether nuclear power can replace petroleum products now used as fuel in internal combustion engines of automobiles;

(b) whether any study has been made by a group of scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology in this regard and if so the outcome of the study, and

(c) when the final decision for introducing this system is likely to be taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH)

(a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

**Amount Realised From Ticketless Travellers on Katwa-Ahmadpur and Katwa-Burdwan Line (E.R.) in March 1973.**

9654 SHRI GADADHAR SAHA - Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the total amount recovered as penalty and Railway fares (charged and realised) from ticketless travellers on Katwa-Ahmadpur and Katwa-Burdwan Narrow gauge in Eastern Railway by special checking staff during the month of March 1973,

(b) whether any report has been received about the causes and circumstances leading to ticketless travel on this line,

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURFSHI) (a) Rs 4,318 29

(b) A complaint was received stating that connivance of railway staff leads to ticketless travel on this line.

(c) The following steps are regularly taken all over the Indian Railways including the Katwa-Ahmadpur and Katwa-Burdwan Narrow Gauge line to eradicate ticketless travel —

- (i) Penalties for ticketless travel were enhanced with effect from 10th June, 1969.
- (ii) In addition to regular and surprise checks, massive checks by mobilising a large force of ticket checking staff, Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Magistrates are conducted on vulnerable sections.
- (iii) Joint drives with the co-operation of State Governments are carried out.
- (iv) A system of punishment for erring employees and reward for those rendering exemplary service is followed to ensure effective staff participation.

In addition to the above, after the receipt of the complaint, a secret watch is being kept by the Anti Fraud and the Vigilance Branches on the activities of staff who are suspected to be indulging in such mal-practices on this section.

#### Formulation of a New Political Party

9655. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri Balraj Madhok, ex-member of Parliament has formed a new political party;

(b) whether Government would provide all facilities to this newly formed party like other political parties;

(c) whether this newly formed party has sent to the Government its programme and asked for facilities and if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS HRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: (a) Apart from certain reports that appeared in the Press, Government has no information in the matter.

(b) to (d). Do not arise

#### Income Tax Assessment of Thina Thanthi Trust

9656. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE

AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the judgement against S.P. Aditian of Thina Thanthi Trust in connection with income tax assessment has been reserved for more than normal period by the High Court of Madras during the month of November, 1972; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the special reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. GOKHALE) (a) and (b). The facts are being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

2 00 hrs

#### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED PRESENCE OF IRON PARTICLES IN RICE SUPPLIED TO MAHARASHTRA

SHRI KARTIK ORAON (Lohardaga) : I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported presence of iron particles in the rice supplied to the State Government of Maharashtra by the Food Corporation of India".

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F.A. AHMED) : The presence of some iron filings in long bold rice recently supplied through the Fair Price Shops in Bombay came to the notice of the Maharashtra Government on May 3, 1973. Immediately, a joint inquiry by the staff of the Food Corporation of India and the State Government was made. The inquiry revealed that some traces of iron filings were present namely 2 to 4 filings per kg. of rice. Instructions have since been issued by the Maharashtra Government to stop further sale of such rice and the Fair Price Shops have been asked to examine the rice supplied to them and get it replaced from Government godowns. Action is in hand to get the filings removed from the affected stock. Government is also investigating the probable causes and would take necessary action and preventive steps in the light of the investigation.