

(b) whether according to the passengers, Dr. Mehta was allegedly given a punch just below his right eye and other persons accompanying him were also beaten by the staff sitting in the Ticket Collector's office;

(c) whether it is a fact that the man who was aggressive ran away and hid himself after the turmoil;

(d) whether it is a fact that the entire staff of the Palanpur Railway Station tendered their apology; and

(e) if so, steps taken against the defaulters in the interest of Railway administration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) to (c). On 19.7.81, Dr. Mahipal Mehta, MP along with three others approached Ticket Collector's Office, Palanpur to enquire about their reservation and running of trains. Not being satisfied with their reply and on hearing sarcastic remarks, Dr. Mehta got enraged and slapped a Ticket Collector who retaliated by hitting him on his face.

(d) and (e). The two Ticket Collectors involved in the incident tendered apology to the satisfaction of Dr. Mehta. The Railway Administration also in a letter to Dr. Mehta regretted for the unpleasant incident assuring him of suitable disciplinary action against the staff concerned. In reply, Dr. Mehta advised that the matter should be treated as closed from his side, in view of the apology tendered by the staff. Despite this, the Ticket Collector who assaulted Dr. Mehta has been placed under suspension. Disciplinary action for major penalty has been initiated against the two Ticket Collectors involved in the incident.

Setting of Arms to China by U.S.A.

4663. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCI
NDIA:

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR
SHASTRI:

SHRI R. R. BHOLE:

SHRI RAM VILAS PAS-
WAN:

SHRI CHHOTAY SINGH
YADAV:

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR
SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appeared in 'The Times of India' dated June 8, 1981, to the effect that the U.S. Administration has decided to sell to China Sophisticated F-16 engines and advance technology tanks of the series;

(b) whether Government's attention has also drawn to the recent visit of the Under Secretary of State Mr. Alexander Haig to Peking; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?-

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Government have seen press reports to the effect that the U.S. Administration has decided to sell a large number of sophisticated F-16 engines and advance technology tanks to China. However, there is no information to confirm these reports.

(b) Government are aware of Secretary of State Mr. Alexander Haig's recent visit to China during which U.S.A. has reportedly agreed to supply arms to China on a case by case basis. Further, China has now been qualified as a 'friendly' country entitled to make applications for purchase of lethal weapons.

(c) Government keep all developments relevant to India's security under constant review.