

(e) if so, the details and the action taken; and

(f) if not responsible official sent, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKAR-JUN): (a) Yes.

(b) 40 complaints of corruption and illegal gratification were received.

(c) Investigations revealed 8 complaints as anonymous and another 10 complaints were unsubstantiated. Disciplinary action is in progress in 8 cases and the balance 14 cases are still under investigation.

(d) to (f). The complaints were investigated into by responsible Vigilance officials attached to Western Railway Headquarters and, therefore, it was not considered necessary to depute any vigilance officials from the Railway Board.

Policy regarding adoption of Indian Babies by Foreigners

1821. SHRI ANANTHA RAMULU MALLU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have clearly defined its policy regarding the norms to be followed before foreign parents could adopt Indian babies;

(b) whether some States have also sought the assistance of Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) At present, foreign nationals can only apply for guardianship of Indian children under the provisions of Guardians and Wards Act 1890. Adoption Bill 1980, introduced in Lok Sabha in December 1980, is before Parliament.

(b) The proceedings under Guardians and Wards Act 1890 are between private parties. States do not require any assistance from the Union Government in such cases.

(c) Does not arise.

Surplus Steam Locomotives

1822. SHRI SURAJ BHAN:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of steam locomotives are lying surplus and a lot of expenditure is being incurred on their maintenance and repairs and on account of crew, fuel and spare parts therefor;

(b) whether interest and depreciation charges are also incurred on account of the investment in such surplus steam engines; and

(c) if so, steps proposed to be taken to save such expenditure on maintenance etc. of these engines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKAR-JUN): (a) and (b). Locomotive requirements are reviewed periodically. Locomotives surplus to requirements are immediately set aside and condemned thereafter, on age-cum-condition basis. At any time, a few locomotives would be available as surplus pending condemnation but removed from service.

Since such locomotives are immediately set aside no maintenance or operating expenditure is incurred and interest and depreciation charges are negligible.

(c) In view of reply to parts (a) and (b), the question does not arise.