

(a) whether Government officials are purchasing the air tickets through travel agents;

(b) whether travel agents are paid substantial commission by the airlines on such tickets;

(c) whether the amount involved in the transaction both ways is public money;

(d) whether there is any proposal to ban the purchase of air tickets by Government officials from sources other than the airlines concerned directly;

(e) the details of such instructions issued; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (d) to (f). Instructions exist that all bookings on Government account should be made with national carriers directly. Ministry of Finance have however permitted officials from that Ministry to book the air tickets through two Public Sector Travel Agents namely M/s Ashok Travel and Tours and M/s. Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.

(b) and (c). All travel agents booking international passage are entitled to 9% commission on sales in accordance with IATA Regulations. For domestic sales, IA pays commission of 5% on basic fare and 2 1/2 on fuel surcharge.

[*Translation*]

### **Corruption in Railways**

225. SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy to root out corruption in Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Action Plan has been drawn up which is being acted upon. This calls for intensification of vigilance activities, especially in the following areas:

- (1) Mass contact like booking, reservation, luggage/parcels, goods and catering where public are hurt/harassed.
- (2) Where there is possibility of large sums of public money being misused/wasted or leakage of revenue.
- (3) Recruitment and selection of staff.

The activities comprises both preventive and punitive measures. The former include simplification/modification of rules/procedures (to prevent or reduce scope for malpractices), information gathering, identification of suspect persons and corruption-prone areas for maintaining watch, periodic transfer of officers and staff on sensitive posts, pre-mature retirement of officers/staff of suspect integrity, large-scale education of staff, supervisory officials and public and their involvement in vigilance, and regular and frequent checks. Punitive measures included speedy investigations and disciplinary proceedings, and imposition of deterrent punishment in proven cases of malpractices and corruption.

Regular and frequent liaison is maintained with the Center Bureau of Investiga-

tions, who supplement the Railways' Vigilance work.

**Consumption of Petrol and Petroleum Products**

226. SHRI PHOOL CHAND  
VARMA:  
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken various steps with a view to reducing consumption of petrol and petroleum products.

(b) if so, whether Government have made any estimate of the annual consumption of petrol and petroleum products in Public and private sector in the country;

(c) if so, the quantity of petrol and petroleum products consumed in public and private sector, separately during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the quantity estimated to be consumed in these sectors separately during the current year; and

(e) the quantity of petrol and other petroleum products saved so far, product-wise and sector-wise during the current year as a result of steps taken by Government to reduce the consumption of petrol and petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Data regarding consumption of petrol and petroleum product is in public and private sectors, separately is not available.

(e) It is too early to assess the impact of

the different measures for containment of demand which were announced on 21st June 1990.

**Price of Cement**

227. SHRI PHOOL CHAND  
VERMA:  
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had advised the cement manufacturers in April-May, 1990 to lower the prices of cement;

(b) if so, whether the rates of cement have come down in various parts of the country during the months of June-July;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have issued special instructions to those cement producing units which are not utilising their full capacity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the drastic steps proposed to be taken by Government to provide cement at fair prices in future?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). At most consumption centres in the country, particularly in the Western and Northern Regions, there was a fall in cement prices during May and early June.

(d) and (e). Increased efforts are being made to provide infrastructural support to the Cement Industry in the form of adequate supply of Coal and Rail Wagons in order to ensure optimum production and to make maximum cement available in the market. Constant monitoring is being done to facili-