

(c) the action being taken by Government to stop such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) and (b). Some such cases have come to notice.

(c) The following steps have been taken to prevent unauthorised entry in reserved coaches:

- (i) Surprise check and drives are conducted from time to time with the help of GRP and unauthorised passengers found travelling in reserved coaches are detained and fined under the provisions of the Railways Act. Wherever the problem of unauthorised entry of passengers in reserved coaches is acute, coordination is established with GRP to enlist their assistance to prevent the same.
- (ii) Punishments are imposed on Conductors/TTEs/Coaches Attendants found responsible for dereliction of duty.
- (iii) Legal provisions in the new Railways Act, 1989, have been more stringent inasmuch as a fine upto Rs. 500/- has been prescribed as against Rs. 30/- in the present Act.

Suspension of Uneconomic Flights

586. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the uneconomic routes both domestic as well as international;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision to suspend such uneconomic flights;

(c) if so, what are the uneconomic flights; and

(d) the extent of loss sustained by the Government by introducing flights on those routes in last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) to (d). It will be the constant endeavour of all our airlines to keep uneconomic flights to the minimum. As there is no precise definition for such flights, it is not possible to indicate the amount of loss sustained by the airlines on account of all such flights in the last three years.

Computerisation of Railway Reservation on Railway Stations under South Eastern Railways

587. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the railway stations under South Eastern Railways where reservation of tickets has been computerised;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to computerise railway reservation on some other railway stations during 1991-92;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) The main reservation complex at Calcutta along with 11 City Booking Offices cater to the needs of South Eastern Railway. In addition, the reservation facilities at Bhubaneswar Railway Station have been computerised and the reservation facilities at Cuttack are in the process of being computerised.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Prices of Petroleum Products

588. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the reasons for not reducing prices in the country while its prices in the international market have come down due to the Gulf war?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Prices of major Petroleum products like HSD and SKO are still quite high in the international market. Even though the price of crude oil in the international market has come down after start of the Gulf War, the situation is still very volatile and there is no certainty about prices stability. Hence, it is not possible to bring down the prices of petroleum products in the country at present.

Production of Crude Oil

589. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of crude oil being produced presently in the country;

(b) the production of crude oil likely to be increased during the next five years; and

(c) the locations where exploration of crude oil is being conducted in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) The estimated

production of crude oil in the country in 1990-91 is about 33.576 million tonnes.

(b) The production of crude oil is expected to increase to about 50 million tonnes in the terminal year of VIII Five Year Plan.

(c) At present exploration is being carried out within different categories of sedimentary basins covering various parts of the States of Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in the onland and in Eastern and Western offshore areas including Saurashtra and Andaman Offshore.

Production of Gas from Coal

590. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to produce gas from coal to overcome the shortage of gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). The Government of India have sanctioned the DANKUNI Coal Complex Project of Coal India Limited, which would produce 33 million therms of 'Coal Gas' (apart from other products) for supply to the Calcutta Gas supply Corporation. ONGC has also taken up a pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification near Mehsana in Gujarat to convert deep un-minable coal seams into coal gases insitu. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited also has an Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Pilot Plant at Trichy in Tamil Nadu which has been in operation since 1988.