

being rendered surplus due to elimination of steam locomotives; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to absorb those workers in other sectors of the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Because of progressive phasing out of steam locomotives, staff engaged on maintenance of these locos is becoming surplus. The surplus staff is not retrenched, instead they are redeployed in alternative categories on Railways by imparting training where considered necessary.

Pilferage of Power in Delhi

1768. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the major factors of power crisis in the capital is the theft and pilferage of power:

(b) whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has recently detected hundreds of cases of power thefts and pilferage;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to further strengthen DESU's enforcement wing to check power thefts and pilferage; and

(d) the action being contemplated against those found involved in power thefts and pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) While there is no major power crisis in the Capital as such, a large number of cases of theft of electricity have been detected during the raids conducted by officials of DESU in various localities.

(c) and (d) DESU has set up two full fledged Enforcement Divisions for checking theft of electricity in the

Capital which are considered effective. The Government has already made 'theft of electricity' a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

ONGC Share in Narsapur Bridge

1769. SHRI G. M. C. BALAYOGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has agreed to give fifty per cent share for the construction of bridge at Narsapur between East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) There was a proposal for ONGC to share the cost of a bridge to be put up at Narsapur. It is reported that no construction work has been undertaken.

Reservation Counters of Delhi/New Delhi

1770. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the influence of brokers on reservation counters and black-marketing in sale of railway tickets and inconvenience being caused to the public at Delhi/New Delhi railway stations;

(b) whether the passengers have to wait for hours for their turn due to the slow speed of work at reservation counters;

(c) if so, the instructions likely to be issued to the staff in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) To combat the menace of touts, brokers and blackmarketeers indulging in sale of railway tickets at Delhi/New Delhi stations, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Computerised reservation system has been introduced thereby eliminating scope of manipulation by touts and staff.
- (ii) Frequent surprise checks against touts are conducted by Vigilance teams. 39 touts were apprehended and prosecuted during January—June, 1991.
- (iii) Checks are conducted in trains to detect passengers travelling on transferred tickets. A sum of Rs. 1,38,859 was realised from such passengers besides confiscation of tickets during January—June, 1991.
- (iv) The requisition slips are scrutinised and door to door verification is done in suspected cases to ascertain genuineness of the reservation.
- (v) Surveillance is kept on the activities of the reservation staff suspected to have collusion with touts.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Withdrawal of Gulf Surcharge by Indian Airlines

1771. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

DR. A. K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Gulf Evacuation surcharge at the rate of ten per cent of fare was levied on domestic fares of the Indian Airlines since September, 1990;

(b) if so, the amount collected as surcharges so far;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Government on the evacuation of Indians from Iraq, Kuwait etc. during the Gulf War;

(d) whether the Gulf surcharge has now been withdrawn; and

(e) if not, the reasons for continuing this levy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount collected by way of Gulf Surcharge from 26th September, 1990 till 30th June, 1991 is Rs. 54 crores approximately.

(c) The estimated expenditure on the evacuation was Rs. 300 crores approximately.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In the wake of an all round increase in costs, it has become necessary to continue with this surcharge.

Freight Subsidy for Supply of Coal

1772. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for freight subsidy for supply of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Freight subsidy for supply of coal is not practical for the following reasons:—

- (i) Coal is a bulk commodity of low value and, therefore, freight is a major element in its cost.