

they seized 160 Kgs; a foreign national was also arrested with 700 grams of Charas concealed on his person. These are instances of detected cases; we do not know how many cases are going undetected. Government should not ignore them as isolated cases. There are professional gangs behind these operations and this also gives rise to the suspicion that the gangs enjoy the support of officials at all levels in the Customs, Police etc. Firstly, Government should keep strict watch at production centres of such items; secondly, there should be greater vigilance at border check-posts to prevent smuggling of the items into the country from neighbouring countries which is ultimately smuggled out through our international airports. Thirdly, I do not know what punishment the existing laws prescribe for such offenders, but stringent action is necessary against them. I want Government to take note of this.

(iv) REPORTED AIR BROADCASTS ALLEGING TICKETLESS TRAVEL BY SOME CONGRESS (I) WORKERS ON 6-4-78.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): Recently AIR repeatedly went on broadcasting for three days an item that three Congress workers traveling in the compartment of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, President, Congress (I), on 6th April 1978 by Kalka Mail were found to be travelling without tickets and were caught by the Railway authorities and fined Rs. 100/- each. It is most surprising that the news released by the AIR was not only false but mischievous and part of a programme to denigrate Smt. Indira Gandhi by gross misuse of mass media. The news was allowed to be broadcast even after a denial by the Railway authorities and the Railway

Minister on the Floor of the Rajya Sabha. Although the false propaganda was carried on by AIR for two to three days, it is surprising that the matter has not been investigated and those responsible for this irresponsible and mischievous release of news are not punished. I may point out here that in similar cases, for a slight mistake of showing some item of an earlier time, persons have been transferred and suspended. And here, when a deliberate propaganda is being made, nothing is being done. Such instances are becoming more common and it is high time—I would invite the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister, who has a great standard of moral upkeeping, and would like to know whether he approves of this type of propaganda carried on through this media—It is high time that Government take serious note of such mischievous propaganda and guard against the misuse of mass-media for character assassination.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): May I seek a clarification regarding the Privilege Motion that we have given notice of.

MR. SPEAKER: Unfortunately, you were not here. You can come and meet me; it is not closed. Your other friends discussed the matter with me. It is open for you to come.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I hope the Government will come up with a statement on the matter I have raised.

MR. SPEAKER: That is my expectation.