

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of Indian employees of some British firms in Calcutta recently met the Chairman of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission and complained that the British employers were disposing of properties through secret deals;

(b) whether Government have received reports that foreign firms in India, particularly sterling companies, are entering into clandestine deals to dispose of their properties through sales to Indians having secret accounts in other countries and thereby causing great loss of foreign exchange to the country; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to stop this drain ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA

BARUA) : (a) Certain representatives of M/s. Hindustan Brown Boveri Employees' Federation had called on the Chairman of the M.R.T.P. Commission and complained regarding transfer of shares of Hindustan Brown Boveri to M/s. Larsen and Toubro Ltd.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Finance who are concerned with the administration of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1973 has stated that no foreign company can hold, acquire or dispose of property in India without the prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India. The applications for disposal of property are scrutinised with regards to the valuation of the assets, etc., and permission given. These powers came to be acquired from 1st January, 1974 and are adequate. While Finance Ministry have not come across any instances of clandestine deals further investigations could be instituted by them if specific instances involving violation of Foreign Exchange Regulations Act could be supplied to them.

Loss on Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Howrah

27. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of the direct and the indirect expenses incurred on running the Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Howrah annually ;

(b) the sale proceeds from tickets for the train annually ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the running of Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Howrah entails an annual loss of Rs. 15 lakhs; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to reduce the loss ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Expenses, direct and indirect, are not booked trainwise. However, the direct expenses of running the Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Howrah have been estimated to be Rs. 37.22 lakhs for the year 1973-74. These direct expenses include cost of diesel oil, engine crew, train staff etc. and also interest and depreciation of coaches and engines but exclude costs of provision and maintenance of Permanent Way, Signal & Tele-communication and overheads etc.

(b) The total annual sale proceeds from tickets in these trains during 1973-74 amounted to rupees One crore and thirty-two thousand.

(c) and (d) It is not possible to estimate the loss or profit from these trains because the total cost of running the same cannot be estimated as explained in answer to part (a) of the question.

Supply of raw spirit of industries

28. SHRISALIL KUMAR GANGULI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of raw spirit in the country;

(b) whether a number of small industries are facing extinction for want of raw spirit: and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to ensure adequate supply of raw spirit to these industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (c) By "raw spirit" the hon'ble Member is presumably referring to alcohol produced in the country from sugar mill molasses. As the present production of alcohol falls short of demand, there is some shortage but Government have received no report of any small industries facing extinction for want of alcohol.