

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) to (d). I lay a statement on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-125/63].

Shri A. V. Raghavan: May I know the number of pilots found unfit during the last five years and how many have been provided ground jobs during the period.

Shri Mohiuddin: During the last ten years, since 1953, only 10 pilots were declared unfit for flying out of which 9 pilots got jobs on the ground.

Shri A. V. Raghavan: May I know by what time the agreement will be implemented in full?

Shri Mohiuddin: It depends on the pilots to put up a scheme. They have not yet put up a scheme. As soon as they put up a scheme, it will be considered.

New Telephone System

***1098. Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is likely to adopt a New Telephone System based on the continental telephone switching system;

(b) if so, how the equipment for the same will be made available; and

(c) whether it will involve the setting up of another telephone factory in addition to the present one?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) A modern telephone system based on indirect technique using crossbar switches will be adopted for use and manufacture in the country.

(b) Some equipment will be procured under the I.D.A. loan. It is also proposed to set up a unit for production of the equipment in India.

(c) The location of the manufacturing unit for the new type of equipment has not been finalised.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know the reasons for this change-over to this system and of what type this new system will be? What will be the difference between the old system and the new system?

Shri Bhagavati: The Telephone Switching System Committee went into this question and they have examined this system very thoroughly. Now, this system has been introduced in many countries in Europe and America. Recommendation of the Committee is that the change-over to this system will be more economical and more efficient. Also, the maintenance charges will be much less and it will be more advantageous for long-distance calls and direct dialling and it will ensure greater reliability.

Shri Rameshwar Rao: He did not reply to what is the difference between the two systems.

Mr. Speaker: He has said that it will be more economical and more advantageous for long-distance calls and other things.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether this new system, will include direct dialling for the principal cities like Delhi, Calcutta and Madras?

Bhagavati: Direct dialling may be by both the systems. But the new system will be advantageous from many other points of view and this is most modern.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how long it will take the Government of India to replace the old obsolete inefficient system by this new system?

Shri Bhagavati: Sir, global tenders have already been invited for the import of 48,000 local exchange equipment for installation at Bombay, Delhi and Madras. Tenders have also been invited for automatic exchange equipment for four big cities. Again, quotations have been invited for

collaboration in setting up a manufacturing unit for the manufacture of this new type of equipment in the country.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know what are the financial implications involved in this change-over? If they have found out, may I know what the components are and whether foreign exchange components are also involved?

Shri Bhagavati: For the import of these 48,000 lines and other automatic exchanges, the foreign exchange component will be of the order of Rs. 3 crores.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Kapur Singh.

Shri Maheswar Naik: What is the total...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether this proposed new system will altogether or for all practical purposes obviate the necessity of very frequent recourse to the Complaints number of telephones?

Shri Bhagavati: I could not follow.

Mr. Speaker: Whether this new system would obviate recourse to complaints that are so normally made during these days to the enquiry office?

Shri Bhagavati: I think that the introduction of this will certainly mean much improvement.

Shri Tyagi: In the light of the emergency and the general sense of economy in State expenditure, has the Government examined this scheme whether it is avoidable for some time or could it be postponed? Is it so urgent that it should be had now?

Shri Bhagavati: It is considered necessary from technical and economy point of view.

Shri Tyagi: Economy in what?

Shri Bhagavati: In maintenance.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; no direct communications.

Shri D. C. Sharma: On a point of clarification, the hon. Member said about a few minutes ago that he did not know English. Now he is speaking English.

Shri Tyagi: I am speaking wrong English. I have never spoken rightly.

Psychological Tests for Railmen

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(**Shri Maheswar Naik:**
-1099. **Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways are considering the introduction of psychological tests for engine drivers and other staff responsible for the movement of trains; and

(b) if so the benefits of such tests?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes.

(b) Appraisal of the suitability of the staff connected with train running from the point of view of their safety consciousness and rational utilisation of personnel in these categories with a view to minimise and eliminate the factor of human failure.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether, from the recent enquiry, it has been ascertained that many of the accidents have been due to the fact that the drivers and other people who are connected with the movement of trains had not been mentally alive and if so, to what extent?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The accident enquiry committee has suggested that a large number of accidents, 60 percent and more, are due to human