

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 26.

(b) to d). I lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the requisite information. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 24.]

Shri Radha Raman: Out of the 26 accidents reported, how many were Dakotas? +b

Shri Raj Bahadur: The details have been given in the statement and I think, so far as the Indian Airlines Corporation Dakotas are concerned, the number was two or three.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know if any compensation has been claimed on behalf of the passengers and, if so, the number of cases and the amount involved?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as is known to me compensation has not been claimed and it is also not payable under the rules.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether in the cases where pilots had survived and it was found to be due to their carelessness and negligence, any action was taken by the Government against them?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The hon. Member will see from the statement that out of 26 cases, barring two or three, all the rest were private planes or flying club planes or small aircraft which were engaged in routine training flights. As such the question of taking action against these pilots did not arise. So far as the planes belonging to the Indian Airlines Corporation are concerned, in the accident that occurred at Palam on the 9th May, the pilot himself died and in the Nagpur air crash, three members of the crew died and one pilot—Mr. Garner—has been in the hospital.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know how far the scheme of the Government regarding insurance of passengers has progressed?

Mr. Speaker: I think he replied to that question once. Next question.

COUNTERFEIT POSTAL ENVELOPES

***1096. Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of counterfeit envelopes have been seized by the police from Post Office stamp-vendors recently in Bombay?

(b) Is it a fact that some postal employees are also involved in this affair?

(c) What is the number of such employees and since how long were the counterfeit envelopes being sold in Bombay?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 922 counterfeit two anna embossed envelopes were seized by the Police from the custody of the Post Office stamp vendors at Girgaon and Mumbai-devi Post Offices at Bombay.

(b) Yes.

(c) Five Post Office Stamp Vendors are suspected to be implicated in the sale of counterfeit envelopes. The date from which the envelopes were being sold in Bombay is not yet known as the matter is still under Police enquiry.

Shri Gidwani: How long has this fraud remained undetected?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I must put in a word of appreciation for the postal employees at whose sole instance and by whose vigilance this thing came to light. It was the Presidency Postmaster, Bombay and the postal staff under him who unearthed the mischief; they detected it while handling the mail and with the help of the C. I. D. caught hold of the culprits along with the machinery with which they were doing it.

Shri Gidwani: May I know what is the total loss....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Members coming in should not come in between the Member on his legs and the Chair.

Shri Amjad Ali: I am sorry, Sir.

Shri Gidwani: May I know what is the total loss suffered by the Government?

Shri Raj Bahadur: 474 and 107 counterfeit embossed envelopes were seized by the police on 12th January 1954 from Mumbadevi and Girgaon Post Offices respectively. Besides, 341 embossed envelopes and 12 envelopes without emboss were recovered during the house search of Shri Nagaonkar, Stamp Vendor of Mumbadevi Post Office. The value of the 922 embossed envelopes so far seized by the police comes to Rs. 115-4-0 on the calculation at the rate of two annas per envelope.

Shri Vallatharas: Is this confined to Bombay alone or is this fraud found in other States also?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Sir, so far as we are concerned it has come to our notice only in Bombay. If it is occurring anywhere else we will be grateful if the hon. Member will bring it to our notice.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM AT IMPHAL

*1098. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a telephone system has been installed in Imphal; and

(b) if so, the number of persons who have telephone connection and the number of persons who have applied for the same?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Number of pending applications 46.

Number of connections given 23.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know if Government have any scheme to improve and extend the telephone system in Imphal?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as Imphal is concerned we are going to instal a

fifty lines central battery board telephone exchange, a new equipment, within six months, and our plan is to augment it up to one hundred lines.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Is it a fact that a switch board intended for Manipur was sent to Goalpara in Assam?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is a fact that a fifty lines switch board was obtained by us for Imphal, but because the other material and equipment could not be transported to that place in time, we had to take away the switch board in order that the capital may not be left locked up, and it may be utilised elsewhere until the full equipment and all items of requisite stores were available in Manipur.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Are Government taking any steps to have different rates for the installation of telephones in backward areas?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That suggestion has not come to us, nor have we considered it so far. But I wonder whether it would not be assailed as discrimination between different classes of citizens or parts of India.

कुम्भ मेला

*१०९९. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: (क) क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि कुम्भ मेले के अवसर पर कितनी विशेष गाड़ियां चलाई गईं ?

(ख) किस रेलवे से यात्रा करने वालों की संख्या सब से अधिक थी ?

(ग) किस लाइन पर सब से अधिक संख्या में विशेष गाड़ियां चलाई गईं ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A total of 983 consisting of 730 trains on the broad gauge and 253 on the metre gauge.

(b) & (c). The Northern Railway.