

Shri Raj Bahadur: I cannot give a reply about the number of pilots engaged in actually testing, but the requisite number is there and most of them have been drawn from the Indian Airlines Corporation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Is it a fact that the tests that are being carried out are only to find out the loading capacity which the Dakota can bear or does it also cover other aspects?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Other aspects also. For example they include tests for flights under stimulated conditions of extraordinary weather conditions of different circumstances, etc.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Is it a fact that at present the procedure of endorsing pilots' licences is restricted to their medical fitness and is in no way related to their actual efficiency as pilots?

Shri Raj Bahadur: For the grant of licences there are certain rules but lately we have modified them to this extent that now these licences for renewal will be put to the D. G. C. A. himself.

Shri Jaipal Singh: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

सोनकच्छ में तारघर

*२१५. श्री राधेलाल व्यास : क्या संचरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या मध्य भारत के देवास जिले में सोनकच्छ तहसील में तारघर खोलने की कोई योजना विचाराधीन है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो वहां कब तक तारघर के खुल जाने की आशा है ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The opening of a telegraph office

at Sonekutch has already been sanctioned. It is expected to function in about six months' time

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know how many new post offices were opened in Madhya Bharat in 1953?

Mr. Speaker: This will be a general question.

TICKETLESS TRAVEL

*218. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who travelled without tickets during 1953;

(b) the amounts of excess fare and fines charged and recovered from them; and

(c) the number of travellers challaned and the number of persons convicted?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) 71,19,797 persons were detected travelling without ticket.

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|-----------------|-----|----------------|
| (b) Excess fare | ... | Rs. 142,68,119 |
| Fines | ... | Rs. 4,68,900 |

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| (c) Challaned | 2,51,847 |
| Convicted | 1,55,216 |

Shri Hem Raj: What steps are Government taking to check this crime on the railways?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We have increased the number of ticket-checking staff and a system of Railway Magistrates has been introduced whereby batches of ticket checkers accompanied by police batches and the Railway Magistrate carry out surprise checks and detect these cases.

Shri Thimmaiah: Is Government aware that the Travelling Ticket Examiners themselves will carry passengers at concessional rates?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There are some wild allegations like that. But if the hon. Member would bring any specific case to our notice we will take strong action.