

service of the employee, viz.,

for a total period not exceeding 5 years, inclusive of other leave, in the case of permanent employees or temporary employees with more than 5 years' service;

for a total period not exceeding 18 months to temporary employees with more than one to five years' service; and

for a total period not exceeding 3 months to temporary employee, with less than one year's service.

Bikaner Railway Workshop

1527. **Shri Karnal Singhji:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the strength of labour employed in Bikaner Railway Workshop from the 1st April, 1950 to the 31st March, 1957?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

Year	Strength of labour*
1950-51	Not available
1951-52	703
1952-53	715
1953-54	770
1954-55	962
1955-56	1139
1956-57	1201

Unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled

Ticketless Travel

1528. **Shrimati Ha Palechoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ticketless travellers caught on the following Railways during the period from the 1st April to September, 1957:

- (i) Northern Railway,
- (ii) North-Eastern Railway,
- (iii) Eastern Railway,
- (iv) South-Eastern Railway,
- (v) Western Railway, and
- (vi) Central Railway; and

(b) the total amount of fares and fines, if any, realised by each of the Railways during that period?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 153].

Bikaner Telephone Exchange

1529. **Shri P. L. Barupal:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telephone Operators at Bikaner Telephone Exchange can overhear the talk which the two parties are conducting through a Trunk Telephone Call because the Switch Board there is of an old design;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to change the old Switch Board; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) The Trunk telephone operators at all telephone exchanges have to monitor the trunk call conversation. At the start of the conversation they have to verify the speech, time the call and again at the expiry of every 3 minutes duration they have to come on the line to inform the calling party whether he would like to extend the period. The design of the trunk board has thus no bearing on the aspect of overhearing by the trunk operator.

(b) The present trunk board is to be replaced with two regular trunk positions, installation of which will be carried out in the new building which is nearing completion. This work is likely to take about 6 to 8 months from now.

(c) Does not arise.