

of character and conduct for such work and their requirements cannot be fulfilled by promoting staff on the basis of seniority-cum-suitability.

Aerodromes

1395. Shri Koya: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many aerodromes Government propose to construct during the Third Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether Government are aware of the difficulties and hardships caused to the people and merchants of the West Coast as there is no aerodrome in Calicut; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to construct an aerodrome at Calicut?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) and (c). The question of constructing new aerodromes under the Third Five Year Plan is still under consideration. A provision of Rs. 85 lakhs exists for the purpose in the Plan.

(b) A proposal to construct an aerodrome at Kozhikode (Calicut) was examined by Government but as it was found that there was not sufficient traffic potential at Calicut because of two aerodromes nearby, namely Cochin and Coimbatore, the proposal was dropped. The West Coast is well served by airports at Bombay, Belgaum, Dabolim (Goa), Mangalore, Cochin and Trivandrum.

Ticketless Travelling by Government Employees

1396. Shri D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken against those Government employees who are found and caught travelling without tickets during 1961-62; and

(b) the number of Government servants detected travelling without

tickets on different Railway Zones and number of those who have been proceeded against?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Government employees detected travelling without tickets are dealt with in the same manner as other passengers detected travelling without tickets. In addition a report is made to their respective departments for appropriate disciplinary action, when their identity is known.

(b) Separate statistics of Government Servants detected travelling without tickets are not maintained by Railways.

Surcharges on Railway Tickets for Places of Pilgrimage

1997. Shri D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the collection charges of surcharges on Railway tickets for places of pilgrimage have been reduced;

(b) whether it is also a fact that surcharges on railway tickets have recently been increased; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No. Prior to 1st October, 1955, there was no uniformity in the rate of collection charges on the Indian Railways. With effect from 1st October, 1955, a uniform rate of 3 per cent for the cost of collection was fixed. This was fixed to cover the actual cost of collection by Railways. This rate was revised to 3.5 per cent. with effect from 1st October, 1960, due to the increase in the cost of collection consequent on increase in wages.

(b) Yes, in some cases.

(c) The increase in the rates of surcharge is solely as a result of representations from the concerned State Governments or other bodies