

flights are operated. Supervision on the passenger amenities provided at aerodromes is under the direct control of the Director General of Civil Aviation. Freedom in the fixation of freight rates and passenger fare is given to the operator.

INTERNATIONAL STAMP AND POSTAL EXHIBITION

314. Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a list of the prize-winners with particulars of the prizes awarded to them on the occasion of the International Stamp and Postal Exhibition held at New Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Lists of prize winners in the International Philatelic and Postal Exhibition as well as in the International Children's Stamp Designing Competition are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 43.]

TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN SITAMARHI SUB-DIVISION

315. Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made for opening a Telegraph Office in each Thana of the Sitamarhi Sub-Division;

(b) whether any suggestion has been made for the installation of telegraph and telephone lines through the main Bazars leading to each Thana so as to enable the important places to have such connections without any heavy additional cost; and

(c) if so, whether the feasibility of such a proposal has been examined?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Of the nine Thana stations five are already provided with telegraph offices. Of the remaining four, sanctions have already been issued for provision of telegraph offices in three. The remaining one is expected to be sanctioned during the month.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The suggestion would be adopted to the extent possible in consultation with the State Government.

MUZAFFARPUR-SONBARSA RAIL LINK

316. Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the action taken on the proposals made by the Bihar State for opening of a Railway line between Muzaffarpur and Sonbarsa via Sitamarhi?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Owing to limited resources, attention has till now been confined to top priority projects connected with the agricultural, mineral and industrial development of the country envisaged under the 1st Five Year Plan. This project would be considered along with others, if recommended by the State Government for construction during the 2nd Five Year Plan Period.

LATE RUNNING OF TRAINS

317. Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to:

(a) lay on the Table a statement showing the details of the late running of the 333 Up and 334 Down trains on the North Eastern Railway during the last six months with reasons therefor; and

(b) state the steps taken to see that the trains run according to schedule?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The performance of Nos. 333 Up and 334 Dn. during the last six months has not been satisfactory. Taking the aggregate of 286 occasions on which the trains ran in the period excluding the period of suspension of service during breaches, these trains ran late on 266 occasions, out of which, on 19 occasions they were late by not exceeding 30 minutes. The main reasons for the late running of No. 333 Up were late arrival of the connecting steamer at Paleza Ghat as it took excessive time in crossing the