

- (ii) Non-submission of beejucks and Railway Receipts by the claimants in spite of demands.
- (iii) Preferment of inflated and exaggerated claims.
- (iv) Due to necessity for making adequate departmental enquiries.
- (v) The Non-receipt of reports from Government Railway Police in cases of suspected running train thefts; and
- (vi) Delay in processing the cases in some of the railway claims offices, including delays in furnishing replies to references from the other railways.

Experimental Post Offices

304. { **Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:**
Babu Ramnarayan Singh:
Shri Asthana:

Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the number of experimental post offices, in the Sitamarhi sub-division of Bihar which have qualified to be converted into permanent post offices?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Out of 120 experimental post offices opened in Sitamarhi sub-division from 15-8-1947, 73 have already been made permanent. It is expected that 8 more experimental post offices will be made permanent by 31-3-1956.

Public Call Offices

305. { **Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:**
Babu Ramnarayan Singh :
Shri Asthana:

Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha showing the expenditure and income from each Public Call Office in the district of Muzaffarpur as far as is available in 1955?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Expenditure: As the Public Call Offices are looked after by officials of the Offices in which they are located it is difficult to estimate the part time cost.

Income : The income from each Public Call Office from January, 1955, to October, 1955, has been as under:—

	Rs.
1. Amgola	Nil
2. Desari	389
3. Hazipur	694

	Rs.
4. Mahanar	485
5. Muzaffarpur D.T.O.	6,498
6. Muzaffarpur Bar Library	146
7. Muzaffarpur Rly. Stn.	582
8. Runisaidpur	89
9. Sitamarhi	1,348
10. Sitamarhi Court	320

Air Fares

306. { **Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:**
Babu Ramnarayan Singh:
Shri Asthana:

Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the basis on which air fares are fixed?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Air fares of the Indian Airlines Corporation were nationalised, with effect from the 15th July, 1955, on the following two broad principles:—

- (i) the fares, other things being equal, should not vary between two points served by two different connecting services independently, having regard to passenger convenience, competitive modes of transport, existing load factors and type of aircraft used;
- (ii) the fares should not be on the basis of a fixed rate per mile or on the basis of fixed rates per mile worked out for different mileage groups but should be based on other considerations like movement of the fares in the past, the resultant load factors, the competitive mode of transport, peculiarities of the areas served by air, traffic trend, the nature of terrain affecting the payload available and cost of operation etc.

2. The international fares on the air routes operated by the Air India International Corporation are determined by the International Air Transport Association of which the Air India International is a member. The International Air Transport Association does not have a set procedure either for determining the fares; but these are arrived at after examining the cost forecasts worked out by the Member Countries for the different geographical regions and routes having regard to other factors like traffic potential, rate which the market can bear, competitive routings etc.

Delhi Telephone Directory

307. **Shri R. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the advertisement charges fixed for the front page of the Delhi Telephone Directory;