

[English]

STD Facility from Manali to Delhi

483. SHRI J.P. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 28 December, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 248 regarding linking of Manali with Delhi by STD and state:

(a) whether any action has since been initiated towards providing STD facilities from Manali to Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and when the action is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been initiated to provide the building to accommodate the electronic exchange at Manali. Sanction of estimates for the Satellite Earth Station at Manali is under process. STD facility at Manali is proposed to be commissioned during the 8th plan period.

(c) Does not arise.

Telephone Booths to Blind Persons

484. SHRI RAVINARAYAN PANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 4 April, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 4575 regarding telephone booths to blind persons and state:

(a) the action taken by Government to provide telephone booths to blind persons on the waiting list; and

(b) what other facilities are being pro-

vided by the Telecommunications Departmental to blinds?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) For telephone booths a common waiting list of physically handicapped persons including blind persons is maintained. At present there are 10 blind persons on waiting list including 9 indicated earlier of physically handicapped category of 411. Connections are released progressively as and when suitable sites are located which are remunerative for these persons.

(b) Following facilities are provided to physically handicapped including blind persons:

- No security deposit is charged for the Public Call Offices.
- Minimum guarantee is only Rs. 100/- per month as against Rs. 500/- per month charged in case of other private guaranteed P. COs.

[Translation]

Robbery in Running Trains

485. SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many incidents of robbery in running trains have taken place during the last three months;

(b) if so, the extent of loss of life and property as a result thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS