

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) :

(a) Previously, on account of the use of a smaller type of aircraft on the night air mail service, the entire bulk of mails was not being air-lifted and the left over mails were being carried through morning air service resulting in delivery of mails at Bombay on the third day. Normal air services have been restarted with effect from 15-5-71 and there is no detention of mails on the night airmail service now and articles are generally being delivered on the second day of their posting, both at Bombay and Delhi.

As for mails posted in the RMS Mail Van on a Saturday at Bombay, they reach Delhi on Sunday evening and get delivered on Monday morning.

(b) Does not arise.

Telegrams in Devanagari Script

*678. SHRI T. S. LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telegrams in all the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution can now be sent in Devanagari Script ;

(b) the arrangements made in the case of those regions where Devanagari Script is not known ;

(c) the reasons for the bias in favour of Devanagari Script *vis-a-vis* the regional languages ; and

(d) the difficulties to be encountered in accepting telegrams in the respective script of regional languages ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides the facility of accepting telegrams in Devanagari script in some telegraph offices, arrangements exist for accepting telegrams in Roman script in all the Telegraph offices in all regions.

(c) Besides Hindi being an official language of the Union, telegrams can be accepted in Devanagari script also, because it has been possible to develop and manufacture teleprinters for transmitting and receiving in that script.

(d) As the exact phonetic reproductions of the script of regional languages require

separate sets of Morse code and teleprinter machines, provision of telegraphs facilities in each language would require extraordinarily large investment besides special course of training and opportunity for the staff to keep up practice and speed. Proliferation of such sets of codes and teleprinter machines representing all or a number of regional languages is not practicable.

Export of Handicrafts

*680. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the total exports of handicrafts during 1970-71 and for the two preceding years ;

(b) the major items and the countries which offer sizeable permanent market ; and

(c) how many times the Handicrafts Export Corporation participated in exhibitions outside India and which are the new markets captured as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Total exports of handicrafts during April, 1970—November, 1970 (for which figures are available) amounted to Rs. 55.10 crores. Exports for the two preceding years *i.e.*, 1968-69 and 1969-70 amounted to Rs. 75.24 crores and Rs. 83.29 crores respectively.

(b) A list of major items of exports of handicrafts and the names of the important markets are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-505/71.*]

(c) The Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Ltd., participated in the important International exhibitions, as given in Annexure II. The Corporation's participation in the International exhibitions has enabled India in developing a new market in Japan to maintain the tempo of increase in exports of handicrafts to U.S.A. and Canada.

Enquiry into Robbery Committed in Punjab National Bank, New Delhi

*681. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the enquiry held in the