

[English]

Installation of Electronic Exchange at Manali

672. SHRI J.P. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 28 December, 1989 to Starred Question No. 67 regarding telephone connections at Manali and State:

(a) the action taken so far to install 400 lines electronic exchange (NEAX-61S) at Manali; and

(b) since how long the applicants are on the waiting list for telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The exchange equipment has been received. Arrangements are being made for its installation & commissioning during the year 1990-91.

(b) There are 100 subscribers waiting for telephone connections at Manali. Longest applicant on waiting list is dated 12 the October, 1988.

Refugees from Sri Lanka

673. SHRIGOPINATH GAJAPATHI:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made to determine the total number of refugees from Sri Lanka now in Tamil Nadu or other States in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has approached the Centre for guid-

ance to deal with the increasing number of refugees;

(d) the measures being adopted to curb the inflow of Tamil refugees; and

(e) The steps taken for their rehabilitation and expenditure incurred there-on?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) and (b). The total number of Sri Lankan refugees in India at present is 93,481. Of these 5,262 are lodged in relief camps and the rest are on their own.

(c) Yes Sir, Government of India instructions exist for the nature and quantum of relief assistance to the refugees.

(d) Inflow of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka is related to conditions of peace and normalcy and the safety and security of Tamils in the North Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. Government has been in contact with Sri Lankan Government concerning these issues and has urged Sri Lanka Government to ensure the safety and security of all Tamils. Government is also continuing its efforts to bring to an end the internecine fighting among the rival Tamil militant groups.

(e) As Sri Lankan refugees are not Indian Citizens, and are required to be sent back to Sri Lanka in due course, measures for their rehabilitation in India are not required to be taken.

However, so far, an expenditure of Rs.15.08 crores has been incurred on relief measures upto 31.12.89.

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

M R. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.