

**Setting up of Telecom Unit at Salt Lake, Calcutta**

4721 SHRI CHITTA BASU Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to set up a telecom unit at Salt Lake, Calcutta,

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K P UNNIKRI SHNAN) (a) A proposal to set up an electronic Switching factory is under discussion between the Government of India and Government of West Bengal. This offer was made by the Ministry during my visit to Calcutta in February 1990.

(b) Details of the proposal are being worked out.

(c) M/s Indian Telephone Industries have submitted a proposal in this regard. The proposal is being discussed between ITI and WBEIDC.

[Translation]

**Telephone Connections in Maharashtra**

4722 SHRI HARISHANKAR MAHALE Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the number of applications pending for telephone connections in Maharashtra at present

(b) whether there is any scheme of Government to dispose of these applications soon

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K P UNNIKRI SHNAN) (a) 3,90,765 (as on 28.2.90)

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The capacity of exchanges in Maharashtra is proposed to be augmented through addition of new equipment and expansion of existing exchanges. It is proposed that by the end of the eighth plan it will be possible to provide Telephones practically on demand in telephone exchanges of less than 5000 lines capacity and to contain waiting period on an average to one year in telephone exchanges of more than 5000 line capacity. This is subject to approval of plans and timely availability of equipments.

(d) Does not arise.

**Declaration of Ajmer-Bhilwara-Chittorgarh-Indore Road as National Highway**

4723 SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether the proposals sent by the Government of Rajasthan for declaring Ajmer-Indore and Dausa-Swai Madhopur roads as National Highways have been rejected

(b) whether Government of Rajasthan has again sent the proposal to declare Ajmer-Bhilwara-Chittorgarh-Indore road as National Highway, and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to declare the said road as National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). The proposals sent by the State Government for declaring these roads as National Highways could not be accommodated on account of resource constraints and other priority considerations. The State Government was informed about this in March, 1989. In May 1989, the State Government again requested for declaration of Ajmer-Chittore-Indore Road as National Highway.

(c) Declaration of new National Highway would depend upon the availability of resources in the Eighth Five Year Plan, which is yet to be finalised.

#### **Jodhpur Bypass**

4724. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government has sent a proposal to the Union Government for inclusion of Jodhpur bypass under Strategic Road Programme; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) An estimate for acquisition of land for the construction of 43.1 Km long Jodhpur

Bypass has been sanctioned in November, 1989. Further action will be taken on completion of land acquisition.

#### **States Affected by Famine**

4725. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central assistance sanctioned to the States affected by famine during the last three years;

(b) the amount released by Union Government and the amount utilized by each State during these three years;

(c) whether any target was fixed by each State to provide employment opportunities; and

(d) if so, the actual achievements made in this regard?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). The State-wise details of ceilings of expenditure approved, expenditure reported by the State Governments and amount released to various States for drought relief during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 are given in attached statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.