

**Funds for Development of Telephone Service in Karnataka**

617. SHRIMATIBASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) the funds allotted for developing telephone service in Bangalore and various other districts in Karnataka State during 1990-91; and

(b) by what time, the development schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Budget for 1990-91 and Demands for 90-91 are yet to be passed by Parliament. Allotments will be made after the Demands are voted.

It is anticipated that approximately Rs. 100/- crores may be allotted to Karnataka territorial circle for 1990-91. The circle will also benefit from projects undertaken by other functional circles like GM Projects, Madras covering more than one circle.

(b) The annual plan 1990-91 for Karnataka state envisages gross provision of about 54,000 lines of local switching capacity along with the associated long distance switching equipments and transmission media. It also provides for commissioning of about 600 Long Distance public Telephones.

**World Bank Aid for Development of Roads and Ports**

618. SHRIMATIBASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide aid for development of ports and roadways in the country;

(b) whether any concrete proposals have been put forward by the World Bank for the aid; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the aid likely to be provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) Expecting for the on-going port project at Nhava Sheva (Jawaharlal Nehru Port) and Six National Highway projects, World Bank assistance has not yet been tied up for any new projects in the port and road sectors.

(b) and (c). The World Bank has shown interest in funding the Scheme for augmentation of Container handling facilities at Jawaharlal Nehru Port out of the likely savings from the loan for the present project. The Bank also have identified more National Highway projects for consideration for loan assistance under a Second package.

**Pakistan's Plan to set up a Confederation with Afghanistan**

619. SHRIMATIBASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Afghanistan Foreign Minister during his recent visit to India stated that Pakistan had planned to set up a confederation with Afghanistan to counter the influence of India and the Soviet Union in this region; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. This matter, according to a document seen by the Afghan authorities, was raised in June, 1988 by a Pakistani General with the late President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan setting