

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. UNNIKRISHNAN): (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

out the imperative need for such a confederation between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

(b) India supports the preservation of Afghanistan's status as a sovereign, non-aligned and independent country, and stands for the resolution of the Afghanistan problem by the Afghans themselves without external interference and intervention.

[*Translation*]

Publicity Camps Organised by Indian Veterinary Research Institute in U.P.

620. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the places where publicity camps were organised by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the purpose of organising these camps and the criteria followed for selection of the places for organising these camps?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) Sir. The publicity camps were organised during 1988-89 and 1989-90 in the Districts of Fatehpur, Banda, Rai Bareilly and Sultanpur of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) These camps were organised as a component of the "Action Research Project for Model Building" for effective and efficient transfer of animal science technology. The basis of selection of the places was backwardness of the area.

[*English*]

Telephone Connections in Kerala

621. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
PROF. K.V. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications for telephone connections pending in Kerala, district-wise;

(b) the number of connections given annually during the last three years;

(c) when the backlog is likely to be cleared; and

(d) the steps taken to improve and modernise the telecommunication system in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) As per the Statement given below.

(b) 1986-87	=	15570
1987-88	=	16449
1988-89	=	24114

(c) About 15000 applicants are likely to be provided telephone connections in 1989-90. Remaining applicants are proposed to be given telephone connections progressively during 8th five year plan.

(d) Out of the total 631 exchanges in Kerala, 627 are automatic exchanges including 22 electronic Exchanges and the remaining 4 manual exchanges are also expected to be automated by 31.3.90. During the 8th Plan period the Telecom system in Kerala shall be improved and modernised further by the induction of more electronic exchanges digital transmission systems.