

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d). Interdialling and group dialling facilities between Kolumum and Udumapet exchanges are planned to be provided during 1990-91 subject to availability of equipment.

#### **Satellite Port at Gangavaram**

1603. SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken for setting up a satellite port at Gangavaram;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c). There is no proposal for the Central Government to set up a satellite port at Gangavaram.

#### **Relaxation in Travel Restrictions Between India and Pakistan**

1604. SHRID.M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to relax travel restrictions between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Pakistan has also agreed to relax the travel restrictions; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K.GUJRAL): (a) to (d). The decision to relax travel restrictions was taken in the third meeting of India-Pakistan Joint Commission held in Islamabad on 18-19 July, 1989, as per following details:

(a) Both sides agreed to increase the number of places that can be visited by national of either country from the present 4 to 8.

(b) Both sides agreed that persons with visas valid upto 14 days will be exempted from police reporting on reciprocal basis. This visa will be non-extendable.

(c) Both sides agree that visitors travelling by air could enter at one point and exit at another point provided that the visa is so endorsed.

(d) Both sides agreed to introduce a new category of tourist visa to cover groups tours by approved tour operators valid upto 14 days. Private tour operators/travel agents duly approved by respective governments would be permitted to operate group tours. Such groups must consist of 10 or more persons who would be granted non-extendable tourist visas valid for 14 days and for a maximum of 8 places. Individual members of the group will not be required to register with the police. The tour operators will inform the registration authorities at various places in advance.

#### **Visit of Nepalese Delegation**

1605. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level delegation led by Foreign Secretary of Nepal Visited India recently;