

Relations with Angola and Mozambique

4971. SHRI AMRUT KASAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the strategic position of the newly independent countries of Africa, like Angola and Mozambique the former Portuguese Colonies in the political situation in Africa;

(b) what steps Government has taken to increase friendly relations with Angola and Mozambique in Africa;

(c) whether it is a fact that these African countries have been neglected while framing our foreign policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUMDU): (a) to (c). Government of India is fully aware of the significance and importance of the newly independent countries of Africa, including countries like Angola and Mozambique with which India has also shared colonial past, *vis-a-vis* the ex-Portuguese Empire.

In so far as Mozambique is concerned, India has had close historical relations and there is a sizable number of persons of India origin residing there. Mozambique is also linked to us by the Indian Ocean. Government of India established diplomatic relations ambassadorial level with Mozambique upon its accession to full independence. India has also been extending full moral and material support to Mozambique which, as a front line State, has to bear the brunt of the burden and make sacrifices because of the continuance of the Zimbabwe freedom struggle, both bilaterally and in the framework of commitments undertaken under the aegis of the commonwealth and the United Nations. We have concluded a general agreement of economic, scientific and technical cooperation with Mozambique.

As regards Angola, even before its accession to independence, we had provided material assistance for the freedom struggle and had made facilities available for higher education for Angolan students including grant of scholarships. Offers have also been made recently for scholarships to Angolan students for study in India.

Immediately after independence high-level contacts were established between the two countries. Angola has also been the recipient of our bilateral assistance.

उत्तर प्रदेश में टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज की र टेलीफोन कनेक्शन

4972. श्री राजेश कुमार शर्मा: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताते की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय उत्तर प्रदेश में कितने टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज काम कर रहे हैं ;

(ख) इन टेलीफोन एक्सचेंजों के प्रत्येक कुल कितने टेलीफोन कनेक्शन हैं ;

(ग) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश में कितने अतिरिक्त टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज खोले जायेंगे ; और

(घ) वहां खोले जाने वाले नये टेलीफोन एक्सचेंजों पर अनुमानतः कितनी छनराशि खर्च की जानी है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (की परहुरि कलकत्ता बुकलेव साहू) : (क) 486 (1-4-77 को स्थिति के अनुसार)

(ख) 1,20,403

(1-4-77 को स्थिति के अनुसार)

(ग) 36

(घ) 11.55 लाख रुपये (अनुमान)।