

**Grant of Out Of Turn Telephone Connections in Madras City**

625. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Manager, Telephones has discretionary powers for sanctioning telephone connections to a special group of persons;

(b) the circumstances under which such special powers are exercised; and

(c) the number and names of persons in Madras City who got connections under the discretionary powers of the General Manager during the last 12 months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) General Manager may allot telephone piecemeal on merits at their discretion in the categories OYT-Government, Non-OYT-SS, OYT-FE, OYT-S and OYT-G where telephone is required in public interest on the recommendations of the Central or State Governments.

(c) Such statistical information has not been maintained.

**Discussions held with Foreign Minister of Netherlands**

626. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Minister of Netherlands visited India in October, 1978 and had discussions with Indian officials; and

(b) if so, the nature of discussion held and what are the results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Dutch Foreign Minister, Dr. C. A. van der Klaauw, visited India from the 11th to the 13th October, 1978 and had dis-

cussions with the Minister for External Affairs Minister of State for External Affairs and officials.

(b) There are no problems between India and the Netherlands. The two delegations discussed bilateral relations and international affairs. Apart from discussions relating to major international problems, including disarmament, detente and North-South problems, the Foreign Minister of India explained India's policy of non-alignment and our efforts to improve relations with our neighbours and establish a climate of confidence and cooperation with them. The Netherlands is technologically highly advanced country and an influential member of the EEC. In discussions the danger of adoption of protectionists policies by the advanced countries to developing countries like India was pointed out. The Netherlands which is a major trading country as well as one of the most liberal aid-giving nations, appreciated this aspect.

**News Item "Mighty Mess in Manganese Ore"**

627. SHRI VASANT SATHE;  
SHRI MAHI LAL;  
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in the news weekly 'Elitz', dated the 30th September, 1978 under the caption "Mighty Mess in Manganese Ore";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the reported violation of rules, nepotism and financial irregularities listed therein; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed on the report and similar other complaints regarding functioning of MOIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND