

Telex link between India and Nepal

4094. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a direct telex link between India and Nepal has been introduced recently; and

(b) if so, the names of the Indian cities which will have direct telephone, telegraph link with Kathmandu ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) :

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) The new telex link operates between Kathmandu and Bombay and provides telex, telephone, and telegraph services mainly for international traffic. The names of cities in India which already have direct telephone/telegraph links with Kathmandu are :—

(i) Telephone link Calcutta, Delhi, Patna and Bombay

(ii) Telegraph link Delhi and Patna

S.T.D. between Delhi and neighbouring Cities

4095. SHRI NAWAL KISHORI SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to introduce S.T.D. between Delhi and some of the neighbouring cities in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan State;

(b) if so, the name of these cities which will have such facilities; and

(c) the time by which the facility is expected to be extended to these cities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) and (b). Connection of the following cities

to Delhi on point-to-point STD has been planned and works are in various stages of progress :—

Gurgaon, Sonapat, Rohtak, Karnal, Panipat, Hissar and Alwar.

(c) Gurgaon & Sonapat are expected to be linked to Delhi on S.T.D. basis during 1973-74. The other routes are expected to be commissioned progressively during the next plan.

Indian Scientists selected by NASA for working in space Laboratory

4096. SHRI NAWAL KISHORI SHARMA Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state

(a) whether American Space Agency (NASA) has selected some Indian scientists to work skylab,

(b) if so, the number of Indian scientists who will participate in the experiment,

(c) whether these scientists will function at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Ahmedabad or will go to U.S.A. and

(d) who will bear the research cost in India and the expenditure to be incurred in supplying information to NASA

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (d). The question of Indian participation in the Skylab experiments is under examination.