

- adoption of improved agricultural technology.

Shipping Service Between Madras and Singapore

*763. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reintroduce the shipping service between Madras and Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce new shipping services between Indian mainland and various islands in South East Asia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the proposed routes?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) and (b). Shipping Corporation of India Ltd has been asked to conduct a feasibility study on reintroduction of the shipping service between Madras and Singapore. A final decision on the reintroduction of this service can be taken only after the feasibility report is received and examined by the Government. Government are also prepared to encourage private sector in organising shipping services between the East Coast of India and Malaysia and Singapore, if the Government receives such proposals.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Units for Manufacturing Telecommunications Equipments in Maharashtra

*765. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for setting up of units for manufacturing of machinery and equipments required by the Telecommunications Department during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of locations under consideration in Maharashtra for setting up such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Following new proposals have been finalised after the formation of Telecom. Commission and are presently under different stages of approval and/or implementation.

Switching Equipment

1. ITI will be expanded from the present 15.5 lakh lines per annum to 22.0 lakh lines per annum.
2. Eight manufacturers have been identified for producing electronic exchange equipment of C-DOT design into 50,000 lines per annum each.

Transmission equipment

3. 28 manufacturers have been identified for manufacture of 1 Ch1/10 Ch1/30 Ch1 Radio systems and Multi-access rural radio systems.

Terminal equipments

4. Four manufacturers have been