

(e) if so, th details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Shri Unnikrishnan, Minister of Surface Transport and Communication visited Chile and Brazil in March 1990.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). Not applicable in view of answer to (b) above.

Tamil Refugees from Sri Lanka

7353. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-
CHANDRAN:
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA
WADIYAR:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPA-
THI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the reasons for Tamil Nadu Government refusing to grant refuge to the Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka; and

(b) what were the circumstances that led to the refugees being housed in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Government of Tamil Nadu refused to accept the Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka, as they apprehended that their presence will pose a law and order problem for the State Government.

(b) The Government of India, in consultation with the Government of Orissa, decided to house these refugees in Koraput District (Orissa), as necessary infrastructure facilities were available there.

Telephone Connections in Orissa

7354. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications for telephone connections pending in Orissa, district-wise;

(b) the number of connections given year-wise during the last three years;

(c) when the backlog is likely to be cleared; and

(d) the steps taken to improved and modernise the telecommunication system in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). The information is given in the statement below.

(c) Subject to availability of resources, most of the present backlog is likely to be cleared progressively during 1990-91 and the rest in 1991-92.

(d) Improvement and modernisation programme for Orissa includes the following:—

(i) Automatisation of all local manual exchanges.

(ii) Replacement of all life expired, worn out and unserviceable equipments.

(iii) Induction of electronic equipments.

(iv) Ducting of underground cable system.

(v) Expansion of the network to