

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS*[English]***Conversion of Defaulted Loans to Shipping Corporation of India into Equity**

*66. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to convert 50 per cent of the defaulted loans to the Shipping Corporation of India into equity; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K P UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). The Capital Restructuring proposal of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., which is under consideration of the Government, envisages, among others, conversion of part of the outstanding loans of Shipping Corporation of India due to the Government into equity in order that the debt-equity ratio of the Company is brought to 3 : 1 as on 31.3.89.

Telephone Connections at Manali

*67. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for telephone connections in Manali, district Kulu (Himachal Pradesh);

(b) the steps Government propose to take to clear the waiting list in view of importance of Manali as an international tourist spot; and

(c) the time by which the capacity of the

present exchange will be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) 89 applications are pending for telephone connections in Manali, District Kulu (Himachal Pradesh).

(b) & (c). A 400 lines electronic exchange (NEAX-61S) has been planned to be installed during the next year 1990-91 to replace the existing manual exchange of 295 lines capacity. There is no proposal for the expansion of the present exchange as it is being replaced by electronic exchange.

Bodo Agitation

*68. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are considering any new initiatives to contain Bodo agitation in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) and (b). Talks are proposed to be held shortly between the Government of Assam and ABSU (UB Group) in the presence of a Central Observer. The Central Government will extend all necessary help and cooperation so that a mutually acceptable solution is reached.

Telecom Commission

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

(a) whether Government are contemplating to have a rethinking over the struc-