

friendship treaty to Sri Lanka;

(b) whether the proposed treaty is in total substitution of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord concluded in 1987;

(c) whether the treaty makes the devolution of power a pre-condition for withdrawal of Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) from Sri Lanka;

(d) whether the treaty has been accepted by Sri Lanka; and

(e) if not, the present status of the treaty?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The proposal for a Friendship Treaty came from the Sri Lanka Government. On their repeated urgings we had forwarded our draft response on 12th January, 1990.

(b) No Sir, A mutually agreed Treaty could replace only the Letters Exchanged on July 29, 1987 at the time of the signing of the Indo Sri Lanka Agreement.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) A formal response from the Sri Lanka Government to the Indian Draft is awaited.

Expansion of Rural Telecommunications Services

*54. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have prepared a plan to expand rural telecommunication services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Annual Plan 1990-91 envisages gross commissioning of 1.35 lakh lines of Local Switching Capacity in addition to opening of 15000 Long Distance Public Telephones and 1000 combined Telegraph Offices at an anticipated outlay of about Rs. 380 crores.

Pak Move to Raise Kashmir issue in UN

*55. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made by a senior federal minister of Pakistan that Pakistan is examining the option of raising the Kashmir issue in the United Nations as reported in the 'Indian Express', dated 13 February, 1990; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to balk down in time this reported move which runs counter to the Simla Agreement and to counteract the false propaganda being made by Pakistan against India on the Kashmir issue in the Muslim countries of West Asia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) We have conveyed to the world community that recent Pakistani actions and statements in regard to Kashmir are in clear violation of the Simla Agreement which, inter-alia, calls for settlement of all differences peacefully and through bilateral negotiations.

Construction of National Highways in Maharashtra

*56. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: