

### Telephone Exchanges in Akola and Sanganner

1316. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of Telephones, Maharashtra Circle has received representations for opening of telephone exchanges in Akola and Sanganner Talukas of District Ali Nagar; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Applications for opening new telephone exchanges as detailed below have been received.

*Akola Tehsil:* 19 applications have been received for telephone connections at Virgaon.

*Sanganner Tehsil:* 18 and 20 applications have been received for telephone connections at Lingdeo and Chitali respectively.

(b) Estimates have been sanctioned. Action for the procurement of telephone exchange equipment and provision of necessary infrastructure has been initiated.

### Number of Flights Carried Out in Bringing Indians from Gulf Countries

1317. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER:

SHRI JOSS FERNANDEZ:

SHRI Y.S. RAJA SEKHAR REDDY:

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU:

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MEWAR:

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI A. CHARLES:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights carried out from Gulf by the Government through Air India and Indian Airlines of evacuate Indian nationals;

(b) the number of evacuees brought to India through Air India and Indian Airlines planes;

(c) the expenditure incurred in evacuating these Indians through Air India/Indian Airlines;

(d) whether these evacuees were brought free of cost;

(e) if not the amount charged from those returning by land, sea and air, separately;

(f) whether it is a fact that on number of flights seats remained vacant inspite of a great rush;

(g) if so, the extent of average capacity utilization of seats during these flights; and

(h) the reasons for less capacity utilisation, if any?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) A total of 485 Air India flights were operated to evacuate Indian nationals from Kuwait and Iraq. This figure includes aircraft of Indian Airlines used by Air India.

(b) 1,11,136 evacuees were brought to India on these flights.

(c) Expenditure on evacuation of Indians through Air India = Rs. 252 crores.

(d) and (e). The evacuees who came on these flights were repatriated at Government cost. A final decision regarding the recovery of repatriation cost has still to be taken by the Government

(f) Only on one occasion, September 11, 1990 some seats remained vacant in one Air India aircraft.

(g) and (h). On all other occasions, full capacity of all the aircraft was utilised. On September 11, some seats remained unutilised as they were kept for medical cases who were being flown in from Kuwait in a chartered Iraqi Airways flight, which was cancelled at the last minute.

**Strengthening and Widening of National Highway No. 3**

1318. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for strengthening and widening of National Highway No. 3 passing through Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount sanctioned therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Details of the proposals for widening/strengthening on NH. 3 in Maharashtra included in Annual Plan 1990-91 are given in the attached statement.