

(b) what is the number of persons on waiting list in this exchange as on 1st January 1990 category-wise;

(c) what is the number of new connections from the Non-OYT category given in the year of 1989-90; quarter-wise; and

(d) what is the expansion programme of this exchange in the near future in view of the long waiting list in the said exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN):

(a) The Shahdra Telephone Exchange having code (level) 228 has a capacity of 7000 lines.

(b) Category-wise waiting list as on 1-1-90 is as under:

Category	No. of applicants in waiting list
OYT (G)	1020
OYT (S)	114
N=OYT (SS)	11
N=OYT (S)	950
N=OYT (G)	11445
	<hr/> 13540 <hr/>

(c) Quarter-wise details of new connections given is as under :—

1st Qr.	155
2nd Qr.	131
3rd Qr.	104
4th Qr.	150
	(up to 22-3-90)

(d) It is proposed to set up another digital remote line exchange unit of 6000 lines capacity in Shahdra exchange area. Subject to availability of equipment this is expected to be commissioned during early 1991.

Deepening of Mannar Sea

1933. **SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether in view of military, economic and strategic importance of SETHU SAMUDRAN Project, Government propose to give top priority to deepening of Mannar Sea between Sri Lanka and India so that large ships may pass through ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): At present there is no proposal for deepening of Mannar Sea between Sri Lanka and India.

India's special mission to other countries on its relations with Pakistan

1934. **SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken by Government to explain to friendly Governments abroad about the latest developments which have caused strained relationship between India and Pakistan;

(b) the name of the officer deputed to Soviet Russia to undertake this mission;

(c) whether the envoy sent abroad met the Foreign Minister and Prime Minister of USSR; and