

(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

(d) if not, the reasons for which Government did not send a Cabinet Minister to USSR so that he could have met the Foreign Minister, Prime Minister and President of USSR and conveyed to them first hand information directly ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Government have apprised a member of countries about Pakistan's assistance to subversion and terrorism directed against India and its interference in our internal affairs, in clear violation of the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement.

(b) Foreign Secretary visited Moscow from 26th to 28th January, 1990.

(c) Foreign Secretary met the Soviet Foreign Minister.

(d) Government have been in touch with the Soviet Government to work out early, mutually convenient dates for the visit of the External Affairs Minister to the USSR.

Presidential assent to Azamabad Industrial area (termination and regulation of lease) bill from Andhra Pradesh

1935. **DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Bill from the Government of Andhra Pradesh is pending with the Central Government for President's assent regarding Azamabad Industrial Area (Termination and Regulation of Lease); if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether there are any objections to the Bill; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Azamabad Industrial Area (Termination and Regulation of Leases) Bill, 1989 has been received for assent of the President. The Bill is engaging the attention of the Government of India.

Representations for relaxation of restrictions on tourist visits in N.E. region

1936. **SHRI SURESH KALMADI:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from certain State Governments of N.E. Region with regard to relaxation of the restrictions on the tourist visits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) to (c) Some proposals were received from certain State Governments of the N.E. Region in this regard. After careful consideration, some more areas have been opened for foreign tourists in Assam and Meghalaya. These are: Sibsagar and Jatinga Bird Sanctuary in Assam and Barapani and Chera-punji in Meghalaya. The duration of visit to the places of tourist interest by foreigners in Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur has also been increased. Various authorities like India Missions and Posts abroad, State Government Officials etc. have also been authorised to issue permits to the *bonafide* foreign tourists.