

**Sino-Indian relations**

- \*120. SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH :  
SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA :  
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the progress made so far to improve our relations with the People's Republic of China?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : The Government have taken several steps over the years to improve bilateral relations with the People's Republic of China. Our latest initiative was regarding the restoration of the level of diplomatic representation in both countries to Ambassadorial status. The question was discussed in Delhi and Peking by the representatives of the two Governments. As a result of these discussions, it has been decided to appoint Shri K. R. Narayanan, till recently Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs as our Ambassador to the People's Republic of China. On the basis of the discussions which have taken place, it is our understanding that this initiative for raising the level of our diplomatic representation in Peking will be reciprocated by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

**Steps contemplated for widening national highway No. 8**

129. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a heavy rush of traffic on Ahmedabad-Baroda section of the National Highway No. 8 resulting in frequent road accidents; and

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated to strengthen and widen this section of the National Highway to regulate traffic through lanes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) No doubt, there has been increase in traffic intensity, but most of the accidents have taken place during night time due to dazzling light of vehicles and due to mechanical failure of vehicles and non-observance of traffic rules. The following steps have been taken to overcome the situation:

(i) The geometrically deficient curves and the narrow spaces have been widened and strengthened.

(ii) The road from Baroda to Vasad has been widened to four lanes.

(iii) The road from Ahmedabad to Vasad has been strengthened.

(iv) Bye-passes have been constructed to avoid the congested areas.

(v) Speed breakers, islands, road signs and caution boards have been provided at junctions to put down the speed and to regulate the traffic.

(vi) The central line of the road has been marked to regulate up and down traffic to prevent the accidents.

(vii) The Police Department is operating a highway police traffic unit to enforce traffic rules.

**Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat.**

130. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all the telephone exchanges in major cities in Gujarat are over-loaded;

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to increase the capacity of these exchanges; and

(c) what is the operational programme and financial provision in the Fifth Five Year Plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) to (c) It is a fact that important cities in Gujarat have a heavy waiting list. Continuous efforts are, therefore, being made to expand the capacity of the telephone exchanges. The following is the programme of proposed expansion :

For the year 1976-77	No. of lines
Rajkot	1500
Jamnagar	900
Surat	1500
Baroda	1000
Ahmedabad Railwaypura	3000
Ahmedabad Navrangpura	2000

During 1977-78, the following exchanges are likely to be expanded:

Name of the Exchange	No. of lines
Rajkot	1200
Bhavnagar	900
Surat	1500
Baroda	1000

For 1978-79 the following is the tentative programme or expansion of the major

Name of the Exchange	No. of lines
Ahmedabad Railwaypura	10,000
Ahmedabad '39'	3,000
Ahmedabad Cantt.	300
Bhavnagar	1,200
Nadiad	1,200
Jamnagar	900

#### Linking of Lucknow with District Headquarters in U.P. through S.T.D.

131. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of district headquarters in Uttar Pradesh which are at present connected with Lucknow by the STD system; and

(b) the names of the district headquarters in that State which are proposed to be so connected with Lucknow during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) : (a) Following District Headquarters in U.P. are connected to Lucknow by S.T.D.:—

1. Kanpur
2. Allahabad
3. Faizabad
4. Rae Bareli
5. Varanasi.

(b) A plan is being drawn up for progressively connecting the District Headquarters to the State Capitals, taking into account the availability of equipment and medium. During the current financial year, Agra and Gorakhpur are proposed to be connected to Lucknow by S.T.D. via the Trunk Automatic exchange at Kanpur.

Indo-Soviet talks for shipping services

132. SHRI IANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Soviet talks were held in April, 1976 to finalise the revised agreement for bilateral shipping services; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of the 19 Articles in the revised Indo-Soviet Shipping Agreement, 16 Articles, have been finalised. The discussions are proposed to be continued on a mutually convenient date in order to finalise the remaining articles.