

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.