

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan's continuous effort to acquire sophisticated arms and equipment beyond its legitimate defence needs, is a cause for concern. Our apprehensions in this regard have been conveyed to all concerned.

Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing of India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

Connection of Telephones With Electronic Exchange in India

2658. SHRI TARIF SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) when was electronic exchange set up in NOIDA;

(b) the number of new and old telephones connected with the electronic exchange from January 1989 to December 1989 and the number of new telephones given in 1989 which have not been connected with this exchange;

(c) the reasons for not connecting the new phones given in 1989 with the electronic exchange; and

(d) whether Government propose to connect the remaining phones given in 1989 with the electronic exchange to provide better service, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISSHANN): (a)

The electronic exchange of 4000 lines was set up on 30.3.88 and expanded by 1000 lines in Feb. 1989.

(b) and (c). The number of telephone connected from Jan. 89 to Dec. 89 from Electronic Exchange are 732; the number of old telephones connected with electronic exchange during this period are 345; and number of new telephones given in 1989 which have not been connected with this electronic exchange are 288. Connections were given from strowger exchange only when the capacity of E-10B exchange was exhausted. These connections were not bulk release, but committed cases or out of turn connections.

(d) The new policy about connecting certain number from strowger exchange to electronic exchange will be formulated only after the commissioning of 5000 lines electronic exchange expansion which is expected during 1990-91.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's Reported Remarks About Indian Army Officials/Bureaucrats

2659. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the remarks stated to have been made recently by the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister about Indian army officials and bureaucrats; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) these remarks are entirely baseless and unacceptable.