

Expansion of Srinagar Unit of ITI Limited

1600. SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal for the expansion of Srinagar unit of ITI Ltd.;

(b) Whether the proposed expansion has taken place;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Expansion Plan is under implementation.

(c) Expansion Plan envisages:

- Production capacity of 2,00,000 Nos. of Electronic Push Button Telephones; initial production has started during 1989-90.
- Manufacture of 15,000 Nos. of Cordless Telephone; letter of intent for this has been issued by Government to ITI.
- Manufacturing capacity of 25,000 lines of small electronic exchanges of ITI design; preliminary action for this project has been taken up.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of Milk Powder and Butter Oil

1601. SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government pro-

pose to stop import of milk powder and butter oil from EEC countries due to increased production of milk in the country;

(b) whether any aid in this regard was provided by the EEC during 1989; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) In view of the substantial carry-over stocks of indigenous milk powder with the cooperatives and considering the quantum that would be manufactured during the flush season of 1989-90, the European Economic Community (EEC) has been requested to provide equivalent cash assistance in lieu of commodity assistance under Food Aid Programme for 1990.

(b) and (c). The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has received 14991 MT of skim milk powder and 2151 MT of Butter (Provisional) from EEC under Operation Flood Programme during the year 1989.

Replacement of Old Telephone Exchange at Kolumam (Tamilnadu)

1602. SHRI B. RAJARAVI VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new exchange is proposed to be set up replacing the old one at Kolumam Telephone Exchange with 50 lines capacity;

(b) whether inter dialling and group dialling facility would be provided between Kolumam and Udumalpet Exchanges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to include this Scheme in financial year 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d). Interdialling and group dialling facilities between Kolumum and Udumapet exchanges are planned to be provided during 1990-91 subject to availability of equipment.

Satellite Port at Gangavaram

1603. SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken for setting up a satellite port at Gangavaram;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c). There is no proposal for the Central Government to set up a satellite port at Gangavaram.

Relaxation in Travel Restrictions Between India and Pakistan

1604. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to relax travel restrictions between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Pakistan has also agreed to relax the travel restrictions; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (d). The decision to relax travel restrictions was taken in the third meeting of India-Pakistan Joint Commission held in Islamabad on 18-19 July, 1989, as per following details:

(a) Both sides agreed to increase the number of places that can be visited by national of either country from the present 4 to 8.

(b) Both sides agreed that persons with visas valid upto 14 days will be exempted from police reporting on reciprocal basis. This visa will be non-extendable.

(c) Both sides agree that visitors travelling by air could enter at one point and exit at another point provided that the visa is so endorsed.

(d) Both sides agreed to introduce a new category of tourist visa to cover groups tours by approved tour operators valid upto 14 days. Private tour operators/travel agents duly approved by respective governments would be permitted to operate group tours. Such groups must consist of 10 or more persons who would be granted non-extendable tourist visas valid for 14 days and for a maximum of 8 places. Individual members of the group will not be required to register with the police. The tour operators will inform the registration authorities at various places in advance.

Visit of Nepalese Delegation

1605. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level delegation led by Foreign Secretary of Nepal Visited India recently;