

**Electricity and Water Supply Bills,  
New Delhi**

\*1834-A. { Shri Naushir Bharucha:  
Shri Shiva Dutta  
Upadhyaya:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is great resentment amongst public in New Delhi against the inflated electricity and water supply bills preferred to consumers by the New Delhi Municipal Committee;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of complaints against inflated bills of the New Delhi Municipal Committee runs into several thousands in a year;

(c) whether Government are aware that the New Delhi Municipal Committee is preferring electricity bills for alleged arrears to consumers, without explaining its demand for alleged arrears and threatens to cut off supply if the alleged arrears are not paid off; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar):** (a) The New Delhi Municipal Committee has been receiving complaints from some consumers.

(b) Out of 41,000 connections now on the list of the Committee about 150 to 200 complaints i.e. 0.5 per cent. of the bills preferred annually, against alleged inflated bills are received monthly by the Committee.

(c) While making demands for the arrears in respect of water and electricity supply, details of the periods involved are communicated to the consumers by the committee. Disconnections are carried out where the consumers fail to pay the dues in spite of notices served to them.

(d) There is apparently no reason for Government to intervene in the matter.

**Motor Transport Operators Strike in  
Bombay**

\*1834-B. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements made for the transportation of imported foodgrains in the Bombay docks due to the strike of motor transport operators in the State;

(b) the number of ships stationed in Bombay port at present and how many more are likely to arrive during this month;

(c) the reasons leading to the strike of motor transport operators; and

(d) the loss incurred due to delay in transporting the imported foodgrains to their places of destination as a result of this strike?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) During the strike (which lasted from 11th to 20th April) for clearance of stocks from Bombay port, the following steps were taken:

(i) loading the maximum number of wagons ex-docks;

(ii) working overtime; and

(iii) utilisation of trucks belonging to the Army and also the Bombay State Transport Corporation.

(b) The number continually varies from day to day. On 25-4-1960, five wheat tankers and one rice steamer were on berth. Four more wheat tankers had arrived but not berthed. Before the end of this month, three more wheat tankers and two rice steamers are expected to arrive.

(c) As alleged by the Bombay Motor Goods Operators and Agents Association, the strike was declared with a view to the redress of certain grievances some of which were of a purely local nature, and some of which related to existing or proposed fiscal measures of the State and the Central