

(c) the number of consumers whose electricity connections were disconnected even on making payment against such bills ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Normally DESU sends electricity bills to consumers in accordance with a regular billing programme. In certain cases, such as those involving replacement of meters and levy of higher tariff of misuse of supply or use of excess load, bills for a longer period have to be raised. In cases where accumulated/revised bills have to be sent, the benefit of payment in instalments is allowed on consumers' request. During the period from 1.3.83 to 28.2.85 the facility of payment in instalments was allowed by DESU in 7681 cases. According to the Undertaking, electric supply is disconnected only when instalments are not paid on the due dates.

[*English*]

Extension of B.G. Line upto Lanka in Naogaon District, Assam

1355. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the extension of the broad-gauge line upto Lanka in Naogaon District in Assam ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) Surveys are being carried out for conversion of the existing Gauhati-Dibrugarh metre gauge line via Tinsukia into broad gauge, which covers the Gauhati-Lanka section, and for an alternative broad gauge alignment between Guahati and Dibrugarh connecting important towns of Assam. A decision about extension of the broad gauge line beyond Gauhati will be taken after the survey reports have been received and scrutinised, in consultation with the Planning Commission, subject to availability of resources.

Fifth Regional Conference of Ministers of Education

1356. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Fifth Regional Conference of Ministers of Education was held recently in Bangkok for the development of education in Asia and the Pacific ; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the Conference and reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Fifth Regional Conference of Ministers of Education and those responsible for economic planning in the Member-States of Asia and the Pacific was convened by Unesco at Bangkok from 4th to 11th March, 1985.

(b) The conference was attended by 125 delegates from 27 Member-States of Unesco in the region. Besides reviewing educational developments in Asia and the Pacific since the Fourth Conference held in Colombo in 1978, the major issues discussed at the Conference were : the universalisation and renewal of primary education and intensification of the struggle against illiteracy ; the renewal of educational content and methods ; improvement and development of science teaching ; promotion of education for international understanding ; higher education and development, namely, the basic problems of higher education in the region, training, research and development and the role of higher education in the improvement of the education system. Besides, the Conference also considered programmes relating to educational planning and administration, educational reform, research and experimentation, educational innovation and information and the training of educational personnel. The Conference also considered new trends, dimensions and priorities in regional and international cooperation for development of education.

The Conference, *inter alia* adopted a Declaration reaffirming the commit-