

Committees for Billing System of DESU

3483. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up various committees from time to time to study the billing system of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking and the problems being faced by the consumers;

(b) if so, the details of the reports submitted by these committees;

(c) whether the Government have examined the reports of the committees;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of the fresh measures the Government propose to take to simplify the billing system of DESU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) According to the DESU, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances had conducted a study on the simplification of procedures for billing and refund of security deposits by DESU. In their report, it has *inter-alia* been suggested to follow a uniform procedure in all the Districts for preparation of meter-sheets, introduction of rotational meter reading; identification of connections where bills have not been issued for more than a year; introduction of spot billing system on trial basis; feasibility of issuing the first bill on actual reading and the next bill on assessment basis on monthly/bi-monthly intervals; dispensing with the system of security deposit for Government accommodation and transfer of security deposits in case of private accommodation etc.

As a result of the implementation of many of the suggestions of the Study Team, and taking other measures to improve and simplify the billing procedure in DESU and gradual stabilisation of the computerised billing system, DESU has been able to considerably bring down the incidence of incorrect and delayed billing.

(e) At present the consumer billing system of DESU is computerised and is working satisfactorily. DESU has installed computer terminals in its 23 District Offices out of 24 District Offices to facilitate transmission and retrieval of the data relating to the electricity bills to and from the main Computer Centre. This facilitates in prompt attendance/redressal of the complaints regarding electricity bills. The present computerised billing system is functioning effectively. The position is reviewed from time to time by DESU in the light of the suggestions received from the consumers etc.

Poor Development of Mining Areas

3484. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor development of coal mining areas;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to overcome the poor development of mining areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) Prior to nationalisation of coal industry, the development of coal mining areas had been inadequate. Since the nationalisation of the industry in 1973, the coal companies have been making special efforts to improve the quality of life of both its employees and the general population. There has been significant improvement in the welfare amenities for the coal workers and in the environmental and ecological conditions in and around the coalfields. Steps in this direction are taken as part of Five Year Plans, 20 point programme, Special Component Plan for the benefit of Scheduled Castes, Tribal Sub-Plan for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes and Community Development Plan for the benefit of the general population.

Kakinada-Kotipalli Railway Line

3485. SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI:
SHRI K.V.R. CHOWDARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to

construct a railway line to linking Kakinada, Kotipalli and Amlapuram;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The results of the survey carried out in 1987 has indicated that the project is unremunerative. The Railways are facing constraint of resources at present and therefore the work could not be sanctioned.

Oil Deposits in Arunachal Pradesh

3486. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where petroleum deposits have been found in Arunachal Pradesh and the likely quantity therefrom;

(b) whether any exploration work has been started there; and

(c) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Commercially exploitable hydrocarbon deposits have been discovered in Kharsang and Kumchai in Arunachal Pradesh. The balance recoverable reserves of oil as on 1.1.1991 of these fields are 5.7 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) Exploratory drilling was started in Kharsang field in 1968 and in Kumchai field in 1977.

Superfast Train for Kerala

3487. SHRI E. AHAMED:- Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is heavy rush for reservation on Kerala-Mangala Express for Kerala and Karnataka; and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to introduce another superfast train to Kerala atleast twice a week?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Some passengers remain on the waiting list.

(b) No, Sir.

Harnessing of Bio-Gas Energy

3488. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether harnessing of bio-gas energy would reduce the rate of deforestation of Garhwal hills;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up more bio-gas units in the region for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir. Harnessing of bio-gas energy is expected to reduce pressure on fuelwood consumption and thereby on the rate of deforestation.

(b) and (c) The State nodal department and Khadi and Village Industries Commission have taken up a target of setting up of 140 and 305 family type bio-gas units, respectively, for 1991-92 in five districts of Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh.

Premature Retirement of SC/ST Officials

3489. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railways officers removed or retired prematurely during 1987-1988 and 1989 and how many belonged to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes among them; and

(b) the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Information is as under:

Year	No. of removed/retired		
	Total	SC	ST
1987	12	3	1
1988	18	5	—
1989	21	5	—
Total	51	13	1