

offices closed during 1989, 1990 or 1991 and the reasons of closure; and

(c) whether the Government intend to reopen them during the current tourism year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 16 overseas offices are functioning at the places mentioned below:—

Country	Place	No. of offices
1. U.S.A.	New York Los Angeles	2
2. Canada	Toronto	1
3. U.K.	London	1
4. Germany	Frankfurt	1
5. Switzerland	Geneva	1
6. France	Paris	1
7. Italy	Milan	1
8. Spain	Madrid	1
9. Netherlands	Amsterdam	1
10. Australia	Sydney	1
11. Malaysia	Kuala-Lumpur	1
12. Thailand	Bangkok	1
13. Japan	Tokyo	1
14. U.A.E.	Dubai and Bahrain	2

(b) Yes, Sir. Government of India Tourist Office at Chicago was closed on 14.6.1990 and the Government of India Tourist Offices at Singapore and Stockholm were closed on 28.2.1991 these offices were closed as a measure of economy.

(c) It has been decided to reopen the offices at Stockholm and Singapore and open a new office in South Korea at Seoul.

DESU Bills

3576. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR
RAWAT:
SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'DESU should simplify its Bills' appearing in the Hindustan Times dated July 28, 1991; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) The said news item refers to the findings of the study conducted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances 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.