

Newsletter'. Copies of this publication are being sent to the Parliament Library regularly.

(b) An industrial licence is issued with an initial validity period of two years within which the entrepreneur is expected to commence commercial production. Since the above said licences have recently been issued, it is too early to state their actual implementation position. These would be at various stages of implementation.

(c) At present, there is no such general proposal. However, it is open to Government to review decisions on merits.

Public Grievances Redressal Machinery for Civil Bodies in Delhi

500. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the existing Public Grievances Redressal machinery at the level of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking and the Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking is most inefficient and ineffective;

(b) whether thousands of the aggrieved residents in the capital have to deal with these authorities daily/particularly highlighting the havoc played by the computer, over-billing etc.;

(c) whether letters written to the higher authorities in DESU and Water Supply Undertaking are not even acknowledged;

(d) whether the genuine grievances of the public remain unattended due to the total apathy and callousness of the officers in these Civic bodies; and

(e) whether the Government propose to bring these bodies under the central control or designate some authority to deal with the redressal of these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (e) The machinery for attending to public grievances has been operative at different levels of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) and the Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking. The grievances relate to a wide variety of services rendered by these organisations. Some of the grievances are such as can be and are attended to immediately. Some others require, in the nature of things, time for investigation, approval for financial sanctions and eventual implementation. Apart from their diversity, the number of grievances too being attended to by these organisations is also very large, running into thousands every year. While a substantial number get attended to immediately, many in the nature of things remain unattended to and take time to be disposed of.

In order to expedite disposal of grievances and give greater satisfaction to the public, a large number of steps like simplification of procedure, computerisation, introduction of modern office equipments have been taken. Despite all these efforts, room for some dissatisfaction undoubtedly remains. The organisations are fully alive to the situation and try to take steps for meeting this.

There are no proposals at present to bring these organisations under the central control for purposes of redressing public grievances.

Setting up of a Station in Antarctica by Pakistan

501. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pakistan is also setting up its Station in the Antarctica;