

being made to commission the directional antenna system as early as possible.

Non-replacement or burnt Meters in Delhi by DESU

50. SHRI NIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2059 on the 6th March, 1979 regarding 'Consumer foots bill for DESU mistakes' and state:

(a) whether the DESU comes within the purview of Article 12 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether any machinery has been provided to afford relief to the harried and helpless consumers in the capital who are forced to pay fantastic bills for burnt meters prepared in an arbitrary manner after a lapse of three years or so when it is the practice with the DESU management not to replace the burnt meters in time and not to reply to the representations from the consumers even at the highest level;

(c) whether he would instruct DESU authorities to compile a list of such cases wherein payments of bills had been made by the consumers during 1978 beyond the period of limitation of three years under the law under duress and afford necessary relief to them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) DESU has reported that the bills are not sent in any arbitrary manner; these are sent on the basis of consumption recorded in the energy meters. In some cases, where the energy meters are not functioning due to any reason, billing is

done on the basis of assessment of average consumption for the past period. When any consumer disputes the assessment, his case is reviewed by Senior Officers and relief granted where due. DESU has also reported that the burnt meters are replaced by them as soon as feasible.

(c) and (d). DESU has reported that on a rough assessment, only 661 cases pertained to a period of more than three years, although a total of 19,739 bills were raised during 1978-79 in respect of defective meters. Out of these 661 cases, payment in 558 cases has also been received and the balance 103 cases are pending. These 661 cases pertain to 8 distribution districts of DESU having nearly 4.70 lakh consumers.

समाचार एजेंसियों को प्रदान की गई सहायता

51 श्री जगदान शेष : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं के समाचारपत्रों को समाचार भेजने वाली हिन्दुस्तान समाचार और समाचार-भारती नामक समाचार एजेंसियों को सहायता के रूप में वर्ष 1978-79 और 1979-80 के दौरान कितनी रकम दी गई थी और इसी अवधि के दौरान अन्य समाचार एजेंसियों को कितनी रकम दी गई;

(ख) क्या अन्य समाचार एजेंसियों को दी गई रकम की सूचना में क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं के समाचार पत्रों को समाचार भेजने वाली इन दो समाचार एजेंसियों को सहायता की कुछ कम रकम प्रदान की गई थी;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार की इन समाचार एजेंसियों को अब कुछ अधिक सहायता प्रदान करने की कोई योजना है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी न्यौरा क्या है?

सूचना और प्रसारण तथा पुस्तक और पुनर्वाचना मंत्री (श्री बलराम साठ) : (क) वार समाचार एजेंसियों अर्थात् हिन्दुस्तान समाचार, समाचार-भारती, प्रेस ट्रस्ट ऑफ इंडिया और बुनाइटेड न्यूज ऑफ इंडिया की अवधि, 1978 में बकायूब विधि बहाल होने के फलस्वरूप