

(b) whether Government are also aware that the strength of men is not corresponding to the number of phones available and thereby the subscribers are struggling daily with Telephone Department; and

(c) do Government propose to employ more persons to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) and (b). The performance of Salem Telephone system is satisfactory and trained technical personnel in adequate strength have been posted to maintain and operate the system.

(c) Does not arise.

Difficulties in depositing Electricity Bill by consumers in Delhi

1504. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it takes long hours to deposit an electricity bill in the DESU collection offices particularly in R. K. Puram, New Delhi where only one window works;

(b) if so, steps proposed to be taken to ease the situation in DESU collection centres; and

(c) are the nationalised banks proposed to be asked to accept payment of electricity bills by the consumers, if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). At present, there are two Bill collection Counters at R. K. Puram Office of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking. In the Normal course, the process of making payment of a bill may not take more than 30 to 40 minutes at any of the bill collection offices of DESU including the one at R. K. Puram.

Arrangements also exist for deputing additional staff at a particular cash collection office to cope with any exceptional rush. Arrangements are also made to open additional counters or new cash offices, wherever it is found absolutely necessary.

(c) There is no such proposal at present. An earlier scheme of collection of electricity consumption charges through the banking system had to be discontinued as it was not found convenient.

Additional target for power generation

1505. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what was the State-wise target of additional installed capacity for power generation during the current plan period;

(b) whether the target will be achieved;

(c) if not, what are the constraints; and

(d) what will be the extent of power shortage in the country at the end of the current Sixth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The State-wise targets of additional power generating capacity fixed for the Sixth Five Year Plan is shown in Statement.

(b) and (c). Some of the projects are in a critical state and may be delayed beyond the schedules on account of various constraints. Some of the major constraints are:—

(1) Delays in supply of plant and equipment.

(2) Weakness in project management area in some State Electricity Boards.