

to computer billing, the billing went into arrears in some parts of Delhi and the Undertaking had to resort to four months billing to cover up the billing gap. The monthly slabs were accordingly applied on 4 months basis. There was no loss to the consumers in this regard and if any stray case comes to the notice of DESU or the consumer approaches DESU the case is considered on its merit and the benefit as permissible on account of slab rates, is given to the consumer accordingly. Efforts are being made to ensure bi-monthly billing to the consumers where 4 months billing is being done.

#### **Plans to step up exploration activities by ONGC**

684. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has drawn up ambitious plans to step up exploration activities in the potential Western region i.e. Gujarat, Gulf of Cambay, Western Madhya Pradesh and Southern Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the nature of the plans drawn up; and

(c) when the plans are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Linking of Mathura to Delhi, Agra and Lucknow by STD**

685. SHRI DIGAMBAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the P&T Department to link Mathura (an important pilgrim centre and now the seat of an oil refinery) to Delhi, Agra and Lucknow by S.T.D.;

(b) if so, at what stage the matter stands at present and how long it will take to provide STD facilities at Mathura Exchange; and

(c) if not, what are the difficulties which lie in the way of the P&T Department to make a start in this behalf and how that Department proposes to remove them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a first-step the manual exchange at Mathura has been automatised. Mathura has also been planned to be connected to the proposed trunk Automatic Exchange (TAX) at Agra. The necessary long distance circuits from Mathura to Agra TAX will be available after the commissioning of the Agra-Mathura-Bareilly coaxial scheme. These proposals are likely to be implemented towards the end of the current plan.

(c) does not arise.

#### **Non-Official Boards of Directors of Public Undertakings**

686. SHRI BHEEKHABHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector undertakings and their subsidiaries under the administrative control of his Ministry on which Directors are to be nominated;

(b) the date from which these Boards of Directors have been constituted and when their present term is expiring;

(c) the details of SC/ST non-official Directors nominated on these Boards;

(d) in case no representation to SC/ST has been given on the above Boards whether there is any proposal to nominate non-official Directors from SCs/STs as has been done in case of all Nationalised Banks; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the recommendation for SC/ST for nomination as non-official Director of National