

Oil Exploration in West Bengal

1890. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum on oil exploration in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). Government have received a memorandum from Prof. Pradeep Das Gupta, Head of the Department of Geology, Presidency College, Calcutta on exploration of oil by ONGC in West Bengal. The memorandum has been examined in consultation with ONGC and it is proposed to hold further clarificatory discussions with Prof. Pradeep Das Gupta in the matter.

DESU Electricity Bill

1891. SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the billing system by DESU causes harassment and inconvenience to the consumers;

(b) whether the DESU has introduced a new procedure of billing cycle from October, 1990 period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the difficulties faced by the DESU in preparing bills bi-monthly on a regular basis as per the reading for the period under billing to avoid such confusion and adjustment later?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) According to DESU, its billing system is not causing any harassment and inconvenience to the consumers.

(b) and (c). Under the new billing system introduced by DESU from October, 1990, bills are sent every two months. A bill on actual meter reading basis is prepared every four months and a bill on provisional basis is sent in between for two months based on past consumption. The bill on actual reading basis is prepared after giving credit for the payment made against the provisional bill. there is no change in the billing system for small industrial/large industrial power consumers.

(d) The new billing system has been adopted to avoid requirement of large number of additional Meter Readers in DESU.

New Catering Policy

1892. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced new catering policy in the Railways;

(b) if so, whether the recommendations of the Alagesan Committee (1955) and Parimal Ghosh committee (1967) have been included in the new catering policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received a memorandum dated 29, September, 1990 from Karnataka Passengers & Traffic Relief Association, Hubli regarding new catering policy;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;