

only this much that full efforts will be made for the exploitation of oil and gas which have been found there.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Mr. Speaker, through helium gas found in Ghotaru, Tanot, Manihari and Tibba we will save foreign exchange worth Rs. 30-40 crores every year. Such a gas has been found only there in the whole of country. It has not been found anywhere else. This statement was made by the hon. Minister when he went there in August to initiate the work of digging oil wells. Keeping this achievement in view and also the backwardness of the area, will the Government supply more rigs to accelerate the exploration work there and what plan is being formulated for the utilisation of helium gas?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Mr. Speaker, I stated not only in August but also 2 minutes back that traces of helium have been found in the gas found in that area. It is estimated that it may be 0.1 per cent. We are in touch with the Atomic Energy Commission and others who are in possession of full knowledge about it and if the proposal is found feasible from technical point of view, finances will be provided because we consume helium worth Rs. 30-40 crores. So far as completion of this work is concerned, we had a meeting lately and we are striving to provide more rigs for expediting the exploration and survey work there.

MR. SPEAKER: Helium must be traced.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: If these are your orders, we will definitely do that.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: A gas based power house is being set up in Ramgarh on the basis of the gas found there. May I know the reason for not supplying gas to the power house at concessional rates? It is causing obstruction in the work. As you are

not supplying more gas, a plant of 3 MW is being set up instead of a plant of 9 MW. Will you be able to supply gas at concessional rates?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: The hon. Member accompanied me when I had gone there. I can say only this much that gas is being made available at the lowest rate. So far as the question of quantity of gas is concerned, we can supply whatever the quantity is available. We have committed a quantity of 50 thousand cubic metre per day. If more gas is available, turbines will be set up. The question of supplying gas outside does not arise.

[English]

Losses in DESU

*249. **SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has been incurring losses for the past several years;

(b) the amount of loss incurred by the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking in 1972-73, 1977-78, 1982-83 and 1987-88;

(c) the reasons identified for such losses and the steps taken to reduce them;

(d) whether electricity bills are sent to consumers regularly; if so, the periodicity prescribed for sending the bills; and

(e) the number and amount of electricity bills pending payment for three months, six months and one year or more and the action taken to realise the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATI RAI): (a) to (e). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The losses during the financial years under reference are as under:-

Years	Amount of loss
1972-73	Rs. Nil
1977-78	Rs. 8.23 crores
1982-83	Rs. 70.25 crores
1987-88	Rs. 155.34 crores (Provisional)

(c) The main reasons for the losses are all round increase in the cost of inputs leading to increase in the cost of DESU's own generation, increase in the rates of power purchased from other sources, continued increase in operation costs, increase in T&D losses, increase in revenue arrears and organisational deficiencies. Steps being taken to reduce losses inter-alia include improvement in revenue realisation, improving efficiency to reduce operational and administrative costs.

(d) Electricity bills are normally sent by DESU every month in the case of industrial consumers and once in two months in the case of domestic consumers. The Billing cycle is normally adhered to. However, issuing of bills got delayed in certain districts beyond the prescribed periodicity due to the initial problems in computerisation.

(e) Issue of Electricity Bills and realisation of revenue is a continuous process. In case payment is not made by consumers, the amount is added as arrears in subsequent bill, and recovery of arrears of dues is pursued. Efforts to further streamline the billing and revenue realisation arrangements are continued.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: The hon. Minister has told that DESU did not suffer any loss during 1972-73 and now when they are purchasing and utilising modern equipments losses are increasing. DESU suffered a loss of Rs. 70.25 crores in 1982-83 and Rs. 155.34 crores in 1987-88. Will you institute an enquiry to find out whether the goods, which are purchased by DESU from the market, are purchased on high rates resulting in increase in losses. We did not have modern equipment in 1972-73 and there was no loss and today when we are utilising modern equipments losses are increasing. Please get it enquired into?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: The main reasons for the losses are slackness in revenue realisation continued increase in the rate of electricity being purchased from Badarpur, over-staffing and pilferage of power. An amount of Rs. 2035 crores is yet to be recovered on this account besides a sum of Rs. 209 crores is due from other institutions. The Government is looking into its financial position and is trying to improve it.

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: The hon. Minister has said that sometimes Bills do not reach the consumers in time due to computerisation. Is he aware that Bills do not reach the consumers upto full one or two years with the result that the consumers are deprived of the discount which is otherwise made available to them? Is it also a fact that in case of wrong billing by computers, the employees of DESU do not correct them saying that the Bill will be corrected by the computer? This encourages corruption and there after the bills are corrected by them. Will you make arrangements to provide jobs to the unemployed in our country instead for increasing the number of computers?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Bills could not be sent due to computerisation but the work

of reconciling the billing has been done properly. The Government is trying to improve the state of affairs of DESU continuously.

[English]

Bombay Telephone Directory

*253. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK†:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited had entered into contract with the United Database India Limited for supply of now telephone directory to subscribers in Bombay by September, 1988, if so, the terms of the contract;

(b) the total demand of the subscribers;

(c) the number of copies for which order was placed and the number supplied by the United Database India Limited;

(d) Whether the United Database India Limited has committed breach of contract in respect of supply of copies of Directory and if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the firm; and

(e) When the new and updated telephone directory will be made available to subscribers in Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BHADUR SINGH): (a) to (e). A Statement given below.

STATEMENT

(a) MTNL has a contract with M/s United India Periodicals (United Database

Limited) not only for Bombay Directory but also for Delhi Directory. It is one contract. The contract is for yearly issues for five years and not one issue of September, 1988. The important terms of the contract are:

- (1) The contractor will publish the directories with Yellow pages and supply the required number of copies free of cost to MTNL.
- (2) Supplementary directories will be published in between two main issues of the directories and the required number of copies supplied free of cost to MTNL.
- (3) The contractor will also pay royalty of Rs. 20.16 crores for five issues to MTNL in lieu of the rights to publish the directories with Yellow Pages and other advertisements.

(b) and (c). There is a total demand of about 7.6 lakhs copies and orders for the same have already been placed. 1,72,295 directories have already been received till 15-11-1988.

(d) and (e). The Bombay Telephone Directory has been printed on 30-8-88 and about 80,000 directories have been distributed to the subscribers. There has been delay in printing of the remaining copies of the directories. The contractor has reported this delay due to non availability of sufficient quantity of paper. Another about 92,000 copies of the directories have been received from the contractor and more are in the pipe line. The directory distribution will be resumed after MTNL has collected about 2 lakh directories. The delay in the supply of the directories by the contractor has been duly noticed and action as terms and conditions of the contract will be taken.