

Governments for consumption by each sector and area of consumption. Within the current constraints of availability of petroleum products and movement capacity, the present system of controlled distribution of products has, by and large, worked satisfactorily in the country.

Delay in sending Bills to Consumers by DESU

*745. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to computerisation of billing by D.E.S.U. authorities, there has been enormous billing delays causing unprecedented harassment to consumers;

(b) whether some consumers have not even received bills for over a year, and, if so, details and reasons therefor; and

(c) action proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been dislocation in billing the consumers due to introduction of Computerisation Scheme in DESU.

(b) The process of sending bills has been delayed by a few months, in some cases ranging upto eight months, in the case of 4.72 lakhs consumers covered by the present computerisation scheme because of teething problems in switching over from Manual Billing System to Computer Billing. DESU has reported that in some cases particularly in respect of new connections, there may have been delays of about a year in issuing bills due to gap in communication of information from the field.

(c) In order to avoid any harassment to the consumers, instead of sending a consolidated bill for the entire period, bills are being sent for 4

months consumption and consumers have the option to pay the bills in instalments. DESU has reported that steps have been taken by them to reduce the gap in billing of new connections.

Government of India have also constituted a high level Committee under the Chairmanship of Member, Central Electricity Authority to go into the computerised billing system, reasons for inaccuracies and delays in sending the bills to the consumers etc. and give their recommendations. The Committee has been asked to give their report in one month.

Bleeding out of Coal Slurry in Coal Washeries

*746. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that the bleeding out of Coal Slurry in Coal Washeries Units Nos. 1 and 2 Dugda, Bhajodih and Santaldih is causing huge loss to national exchequer; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government to stop such huge loss of public money?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b). There is no washery at Santaldih. Normally, washeries discharge effluents which contains some suspended fine coal. Reports have been received that some of the effluent at Dugda-I and Dugda-II overflows from the settling ponds. Action is being taken to improve the recovery of fine coal from the effluent. There is no huge loss to the national exchequer.

Increase in Prices of News-Print

*747. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL:
SHRI N. DENNIS:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have raised the prices of impoted newsprint

further by Rs. 100 per tonne both in the case of high sea sales and those from buffer stocks of the S.T.C.;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) when the increase will take effect; and

(d) whether this will result in increasing the cost of products in the newspaper industry particularly small and medium ones?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI V. P. SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Trading Corporation has increased the price of imported newsprint by Rs. 190 per tonne and Rs. 100 per tonne provisionally in the case of High sea sales and buffer stock maintained by S.T.C. respectively.

(b) The increase in the price of newsprint both for High sea sales and buffer stock is attributable to the increase in weighted C.I.F. value of newsprint and incidental charges.

(c) The above increase in price is effective from 1st July, 1980.

(d) The provisional increase by STC may have some impact on the cost of production of the newspapers but this increase was perhaps unavoidable because of price-hike in the International market, exchange rates and other costs.

Foreign Collaboration for Hazira Complex

*748. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI B. V. DESAI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are presently considering various

proposals for foreign collaboration for Hazira Complex;

(b) if so, what are the details of the foreign collaboration proposals that are being considered;

(c) when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(d) whether the World Bank, U.K. and Japan have agreed to provide sufficient loans for this purpose;

(e) if so, how much loan each of them will provide; and

(f) by what time the complex is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL):

(a) to (c) Government have decided to appoint foreign consultants for the ammonia and urea plants of the Hazira Fertilizer Complex. M/s. Snam Progetti of Italy have been selected as consultants for the urea plants. The selection of consultant for the ammonia plants is, however, still not finalised. A decision in this regard is expected to be taken shortly.

(d) to (f) The World Bank, U.K. and Japan are examining the question of providing loans for meeting the bulk of the foreign exchange requirement of the project. The project is expected to be completed in 48 months after all the approvals are given.

Loan to Coal India Limited

*749. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently any loan was granted to the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries against its paid-up capital; and

(b) if so, how much and the details regarding the benefits likely to flow from this loan?