

In view of the great concern being shown for the need to up grade proficiency in the English language, several measures have been envisaged. These include programmes which will strengthen existing institutions in English and language teaching and adoption of some new programmes. Among others, these include :

(1) Financial assistance to State Governments for setting up of District English language centres which are expected to function as Resource Centres and would be responsible for the preparation of materials and training of teachers in the District.

(2) Financial assistance to Regional Institutes of English, English language Teaching Institutes and other institutions engaged in English Language teaching with a view to strengthening their programmes for training of resource persons and teachers in English.

(3) Strengthening of programmes by the UGC for effecting improvements in the teaching of English in universities and colleges, such as, setting up of English language teaching centres, conducting remedial courses, organisation of summer institutes, holding of seminars, etc.

(4) Intensifying programmes of NCERT for the benefit of schools, teachers and students.

(5) Utilisation of technologies of communication, particularly radio and television, for more effective teaching and learning of the English language.

(6) Enhanced collaboration with the British Council in various forms such as training awards, placement of British specialists, assistance in production and distribution of software material, etc.

[*Translation*]

Delay in Sending Electric Bills in Delhi

+1353. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether is a fact that the people who are provided new electricity connections in Delhi, get their electricity bills after a period of one year or more ;

(b) if so, whether it does not cause loss to Government revenue and inconvenience to the people ;

(c) if so, whether Government are making any arrangements to send these bills in time ;

(d) if so, the time by which Government propose to send these bills to those persons who have not received these bills so far ; and

(e) the number of new electric connections provided during the last two years and the number of cases in which bills have been sent and of those in which bills are yet to be sent ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):(a) No, Sir. Normally it takes 3 to 4 months for DESU to send the first electricity consumption charges bill in respect of a new connection.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(e) Out of a total of 1,26,283 new connections given in the last two years, bills have been sent in 1,03,555 cases and bills are being sent in the remaining 22,728 cases.

Delay in Sending Bills by D.E.S.U.

+1354. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the electricity consumers in Delhi have to resort to instalment payments against the electricity bills sent to them after these get accumulated for one or two years ;

(b) if so, the total number of applications received in this regard during the last two years and the number out of them in respect of which permission has been granted for making payments in instalments ; and