

New Delhi Municipal Corporation

368. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the NDMC is sending Electricity Arrear Bills for 1996 and 1997 to the consumers at exorbitant rates alongwith interest @ 3% thereon;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to raise arrear bills in easy instalments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to redress the consumers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The electricity bills are sent by New Delhi Municipal Council to consumers according to approved tariff. However, when the payment is not made in time, a surcharge at the rate of 3% per month is levied in the subsequent bill as per approved tariff.

(c) to (e) The request, if any, made by a consumer for payment of charges in instalments is allowed subject to the payment of surcharge at the rate of 3% per month on the deferred payment.

Setting up of Cancer Centre in Kerala

369. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for setting up of a Cancer Institute and Research Centre at Ernakulam during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which this Centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from the Government of Kerala in 1997 for establishing a Cancer Institute and Research Centre in Eranakulam, Kerala with OECF assistance. The Proposal consisted of construction of an OPD Block, a polyclinic, a nursing Institute, apart from medical equipment etc. for a total outlay of Rs. 51 crores.

(c) and (d) The proposal was not agreed to as adequate facilities are already available in Ernakulam for early detection and treatment.

Industrial Disputes Act

370. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modify Industrial Disputes Act to allow factories to close down without prior permission;

(b) if so, the details of the previous practice;

(c) the criteria fixed for closure of industries;

(d) whether the interests of workers have been kept in view in amending this act; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (e) Various amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act are proposed based on the requirements of the Social Partners and in consonance with economic reforms. A cautious policy is adopted to bring about any amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act after taking into consideration all the relevant factors.

At present, under section 25(O) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 an employer who intends to close down an industrial establishment in which not less than 100 workmen were employed on any average per working day for preceding 12 months shall in the prescribed manner apply for prior permission to the Appropriate Government atleast 90 days before the date on which the intended closure is to become effective stating clearly the reasons for the intended closure of the undertaking and a copy of such application shall also be served simultaneously on the representatives of the workmen in the prescribed manner.

Financial Assistance for Hospital Projects in Kerala

371. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loans/financial assistance given to hospital projects in Kerala during the last three years; year-wise;

(b) the terms and conditions for allocation;

(c) whether the Union Government have re-