

thing is going slow, as if there is a go slow movement. Will the Government take it up seriously in order to find out whether there is any oil in this area?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Government are very serious about it. Various surveys have been made. At one time it was thought that UP would produce the largest quantity of oil, but unfortunately our efforts have not succeeded. We are drilling there, but the difficulty is that we cannot drill much more than what we are doing. We have another commitments.

D.E.S.U. EMPLOYEES

♦409. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 499 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th November, 1967 and state:

(a) whether any further progress has since been made regarding the implementation of the demands of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking employees; and

(b) if so, whether any further talks have been held between the union and the management?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

It was stated on 29th November, 1967, in reply to Unstarred Question No. 499 that, out of 38 demands of the Delhi State Electricity Workers' Union, 28 had been accepted, out of which 16 had been implemented and 12 were at various stage of implementation. Five more of the accepted demands have since been implemented and the remaining seven

are at various stages of implementation. It was also stated that, out of the remaining ten unaccepted demands, two demands had not been accepted and the remaining eight were under consideration. Further progress in this respect is that one demand has been accepted and is under implementation. Another demand has been partially accepted and implemented by the appointment of a part-time medical officer. The remaining six demands have been considered by the management and not found acceptable.

There were about 42 other demands which were to be discussed by the Union with the management. In accordance with the settlement between the management and the Union arrived at on 24th February, 1968, before the Conciliation Officer, after the Union had served a notice for a general strike to commence on 29th February, 1968, the pending demands excepting the demands relating to the re-instatement of a clerk who was dismissed in December, 1967, are to be discussed between the Union and the management. In terms of this settlement, the Union has agreed to without any notice. They had created also been settled before the Conciliation Officer that, in the event of no agreement being reached between the Union and the Management by 15th March, 1968, the matter will be processed further in conciliation.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: I have seen the statement. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the difficulty in expeditiously solving the unresolved questions, rather than force the workers to go on strike?

DR. K. L. RAO: The main trouble is that they themselves go on strike without any notice. They had created a condition whereby it was not possible to have any conciliation proceedings. It is only lately that they have withdrawn the strike notice and now the matter is being pursued very vigorously.