

## JPS to cease automatic disconnection of customers

The Jamaica Public Service (JPS) will no longer automatically disconnect customers who miss their bill payment date by up to a week, but will slap those customers with a late fine of \$250.

After a month without clearing their arrears, however, these customers will be disconnected. In making the announcement in the House of Representatives yesterday, Energy Minister Phillip Paulwell said the change has resulted from negotiations with the light and power company. He said the change is expected to take effect come July 1. Incentive In the meantime, Paulwell told the House that the JPS has agreed to offer a \$250 discount as an incentive to customers who pay their bills before the due date. "This will help the company improve its collections, and will allow those of us who like to be early to derive some benefits for being proactive," Paulwell said. Paulwell also announced the reduction of electricity rates which will benefit the manufacturing and productive sectors. The rate reduction relates to wholesale rates, which will apply to the top 20 per cent of industrial customers and represents a 25 per cent discount on the non-fuel tariff.