

*[English]***Shortage of Blood**

*95. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ban imposed on the professional blood donors has led to acute shortage of blood and delay in providing blood to the needy in the country; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to tide over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Although occasional and seasonal shortage of blood is encountered in some hospitals and Blood Banks in the country, no serious shortage has been reported.

(b) All State Governments and Union Territories have been asked to take action to promote voluntary donation. The other measures *inter alia* include the following:—

- Encouragement is given for voluntary blood donation through media campaigns and development of targeted IEC material to promote one to one communication to motivate donors.
- Blood banks have been asked to maintain data of donors so that they can be contacted during emergencies and honoured appropriately for their contribution.
- The National Council of Science & Technology have initiated a pilot intervention project for generating voluntary blood donation in 50 selected cities.
- First October is celebrated as the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day throughout the country.
- Measures are being also taken to provide component separation facilities. One plasma fractionation centre has also been set up.

*[Translation]***Cultivation of Invaluable Plants**

*96. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to promote cultivation of invaluable plants like sandal, red sandal, poplar and neem trees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States considered suitable for such plantations;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to include interest among the people to grow these trees?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) No specific scheme has been formulated for promoting exclusive cultivation of plants like sandalwood, red sanders, poplar & neem by this Ministry. However, these plants are planted in the plantations along with other species as per site conditions. Around one million hectares of total afforestation is carried out annually in the country.

(c) Red Sanders and sandalwood is endemic to the States of South India. The neem is grown throughout the country except a few States of North-East region. Poplar is best grown under irrigated conditions.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Afforestation is done by the State Governments out of their own resources, Central assistance and assistance from external agencies. The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages that village and community lands not required for other productive usage should be taken up for development of tree crops and fodder resources through technical assistance by the Government. The revenue generated through such programmes should

belong to the panchayats and in all other cases such revenue should be shared with the local communities in order to provide an incentive to them for growing such produce. The Policy also envisages that as far as possible, forest based industry should raise the raw material preferably by establishment a direct relationship with individuals. Industry should support the individuals by inputs including credit, technical advice, harvesting and transport services.

[English]

Restructuring of DoT

*97. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
DR. RAVI MALLU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the DoT;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) its likely impact on the telecom services consumers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to separate the operations and maintenance of telecom services from policy-making and licensing functions of the Department, to provide operational flexibility in view of the private sector participation in telecom sector.

(c) It is hoped that the proposed restructuring would further improve and expand telecom services in the interest of consumers.

Capacity of Refineries

*98. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of refineries functioning in the country and refining capacity thereof;

(b) whether refineries are working as per their installed capacity;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to made full utilisation of their capacity;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up new refineries in the country in the year 1999; and

(e) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon separately and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY RAMAMURTHY): (a) Presently there are 15 operating refineries in the country. Petroleum Sector has been de-licensed from June, 1998. As a result now oil companies are free to maintain their installed capacities flexible depending on demand/supply scenario.

(b) and (c) In the past overall capacity utilisation has been in excess of the installed capacities.

(d) and (e) During the year 1999, two new refineries, namely Numligarh Refinery at Numligarh, Assam at an estimated cost of Rs. 2489 crores and Reliance Petroleum Refinery at Jamnagar, Gujarat are likely to be commissioned. The project cost anticipated for the Reliance Refinery and its marketing/despatch terminal is about Rs. 13400 crores.

[Translation]

Promotion of Indian Systems of Medicine

*99. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take fresh steps to promote the Indian systems of medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of medical practitioners of Ayurvedic and Allopathic systems of Medicines that complete training annually in the country;

(d) whether the Government propose to open some more colleges of Indian systems of medicine in the country; and

(e) if so, the details and the proposed location thereof?