

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?