

Statement**Salient features of the scheme of MOST regarding greening of National Highway land**

- (i) The Memorandum of Understanding will generally be valid for 5 years unless terminated earlier, renewal beyond 5 years will be considered taking into account the performance of the Agency, and the needs of National Highway development.
- (ii) The entire cost of developing and maintaining gardens/tree plantation/landscaping shall be borne by the concerned Agency.
- (iii) No construction of any kind will be permitted on the National Highway land.
- (iv) No commercial usage of any kind from the land by way of sale of plants, setting up of Nursery, etc. shall be permitted.
- (v) The Agency shall be allowed to publicise the free service on hoarding of approved size, which should not distract the attention of vehicle drivers. Such hoardings should be got approved from the State PWD/NHAI.
- (vi) The garden/tree plantation/land scaping will be developed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Engineer-in-Charge and the National Highway land will be vacated if so desired for the development of the road or any other public purpose in a clean condition within one month of the notice from the Engineer-in-Charge. The Engineer-in-Charge for the purpose shall be the Executive Engineer/ Divisional Engineer of the State PWD/NHAI under whose jurisdiction the said section of National Highway falls.
- (vii) The ownership of the said NH shall continue to vest with Ministry of Surface Transport at all times.
- (viii) On expiry of the Memorandum of Understanding, all fencing material/tree guards, trees, shrubs tubewell if any provided shall automatically become the property of the Ministry of Surface Transport.

*[English]***Vulture Population**

1736. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:

SHRI VAIKO:

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pesticide poison hits vultures' number" and "alarming decline in vulture population" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* and *Times of India*, dated January 15, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the vulture population in 1980 and 1998 in the country and the causes for its decline; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to save the vultures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (A) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The Bombay Natural History Society has published a report stating that high levels of chemicals and pesticides are affecting the vulture populations throughout the country. Food shortage caused due to efficient utilisation of carcasses could be also one of the reasons. Presence of any avian disease is also not ruled out. A detail study in this direction is contemplated. No reliable data is available about the number of vultures in the country.

IOC to Amend Pact with Reliance and Essar Refineries

1737. SHRI M. RAJAIAH:

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the Indian Oil Corporation to negotiate a pact with Reliance and Essar refineries to market products;

(b) if so, the details of the changes proposed in this regard;

(c) the reasons for making changes in the marketing policy; and

(d) the time by which the new marketing companies are likely to be set up and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The Indian Oil Corporation had proposed agreements with Reliance Petroleum Limited and Essar Oil Limited in regard to the marketing of controlled products of their refineries for Government approval. The proposal was examined by the Government and IOC was asked to effect certain changes in the agreements including sharing of the controlled products among the public sector oil companies viz. IOC, BPC & HPC, etc. to ensure equitable distribution. The agreements have not yet been signed.

Facilities for Eye Lazer Surgery

1738. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreign tourists are visiting India, attracted by the low cost of "Lasik", Eye Lazer Surgery done in major Metropolitan cities; and

(b) if so, the facilities being provided to attract this special segment of tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Doctors/Nurses and Patients Ratio

1739. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of doctors and nurses in relation to patients in the country, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the ratio is adverse; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the number of doctors and nurses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) State/UT-wise ratio of doctors and nurses in relation to patients is not maintained. However, the overall Nurse-bed ratio varies from 1:3 to 1:10 depending upon the strength of units/hospitals.

The Nurse population ratio is about 1:2198. The Doctor population ratio for allopathic doctors is about 1:2250. Taking into account, the number of qualified practitioners in Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy, the said ratio would be 1:950.

(c) 'Health' is a State subject under the Constitution. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to take steps to increase the number of Doctors and Nurses as per their requirement.

However, during the 8th Plan, 10 additional schools of Nursing have been sanctioned to different States by the Government of India. It is also proposed to open 50 schools of Nursing during 9th Plan period, of which 16 schools have been sanctioned to different States in the country.

In the case of Doctors, 14 new medical colleges have been permitted to be set up after 1.6.92 and the number of medical graduates passing out every year is around 17,000.

Adulteration in Tea

1740. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH OF FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale adulteration in loose tea has been found as reported in the *Business Standard*, dated January 12, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) The *Business Standards* dt. 12.1.99 has published a news item reportedly based on a study of analysis of 25 loose tea samples conducted by the Consumer Guidance Society of India, Mumbai. The details of the findings of study are yet to be received from the society.