

(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.