

[English]

Operational Efficiency of Refineries

*355. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to appoint International Expert Agency to assess and upgrade the efficiency of Indian refineries based on recommendation of the Sunder Rajan Committee;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal under consideration;

(c) the present level of efficiency of Indian refineries as per standard norms and how do they compare with the international standards of operations; and

(d) the details of steps proposed to be taken to improve the operational efficiency of refineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (b). The Government have appointed a committee to review the action plans of the refineries, recommend suitable methodology for integration of refineries with technical institutes and R and D centres, recommend strategies for development of specialised skills needed for refining operations etc. The committee has not yet submitted its final report.

[Translation]

Juvenile Delinquents

*356. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state : (a) Whether the number of juvenile delinquents have been increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the criminal tendency in the children ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) No, Sir. According to the latest crime statistics published by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the incidence of juvenile crimes has been decreasing from 1988 to 1993 as under :

1988	38168
1989	36392
1990	30816
1991	29591
1992	21358
1993	20067

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to ensure that juveniles do not become hardened criminals, the Juvenile justices Act, 1986 has been enacted by the Government of India. The Act provides for a specialised system for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of delinquent juveniles. While the responsibility for the implementation of the Act rests with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, the Government of India renders financial assistance to them for the creation/upgradation of the infrastructure envisaged in the Act. The State Governments/U.T. Administrations are being constantly pursued to ensure effective enforcement of the Act.

[English]

Participation of Multinational Companies

*357. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several multinational companies earlier participating in bids for telecom sector have now decided not to participate in the national telecom sector bidding; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Last date for tenders for basic services as well as cellular mobile telephones is not yet over. Therefore, no comments are possible at this stage.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Post Offices in Villages

*358. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in the country which do not have the facility of post offices, State-wise;

(b) the number of villages provided with this facility during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which it is proposed to provide post offices in all the villages in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The number of villages in the country which do not have the facility of post office, State-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c). Government's objective is to provide post offices in those areas where such facility does not exist, subject to fulfilment of departmental norms and availability of resources. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to open 1440 extra departmental branch post offices and 650 departmental sub post offices. In the first three years of the Eight Plan, 1306 extra departmental branch post offices and 262 departmental sub post offices have been sanctioned in the country. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.