

Proposal for privatising the FACT Udyogamandal, Kerala

4140. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government initiated any proposal to privatise the FACT Udyogamandal, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received representations from Trade Unions against the privatisation; and

(d) if so, the reactions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) The disinvestment Commission has recommended the initial disinvestment of a minimum of 51% of equity in Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) in favour of a strategic buyer along with transfer of management control.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The decision of the Government on the recommendations of the Commission will be taken keeping all aspects in view.

Red Sanders wood in the list of Endangered Species

4141. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested not to allow export of any commodities using Red Sanders Wood without their clearance in view of its inclusion in the list of endangered species; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in regard to save ecological damage by extinction of this valuable species?

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

(b) The steps taken by the Government to save ecological damage by extinction of Red Sanders are as under:

(i) Complete ban on felling of Red Sanders species in natural stands;

(ii) Export of Red Sanders has been included in the Negative List of Exports since 1992 under the Export and Import Policy. However, value added items of Red Sanders Wood are allowed for export since 1996, in view of huge accumulation of stocks, subject to certain conditions including legal procurement certificate issued by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests from where the stocks are procured.

(iii) Red Sanders are included in the Appendix-II of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES). As a result of this, only legally procured consignments can be allowed for export.

(iv) Number of check-posts have been established and Forest Protection Force, equipped with wireless network, are deployed at strategic locations for protection of Red Sanders forests from illicit felling.

(v) Cooperation of people in protection and management of forests through Joint Forest Management practices.

Integrated Lake Development Programme

4142. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing siltation of the major lakes in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to implement any Integrated Lake Development Programme; and

(c) if so, the lake-wise situation at present and developmental measures proposed to be adopted in the Ninth Five Year Plan or in the current year?