

environmental safety assessment includes studies on pollen escape out-crossing, aggressiveness and weediness, effect of the gene on non-target organisms, presence of protein in soil and its effect on soil micro-flora, confirmation of the absence of terminator gene and baseline susceptibility studies. The food and feed safety studies include assessment on composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies and feeding studies on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes. In case, the transgenic crop is not found suitable for release in the environment or human consumption, the product is rejected during the trial stage itself. A final view on the commercialization of GM plants is taken only when there is a clear economic and technical justification for release of the product.

Impact of foreign plants and trees

†1102. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

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

- (a) the impact and results of the plans that were formulated to promote the plantation of eucalyptus and other similar species;
- (b) whether there has been any impact of the plants and trees of foreign species on the soil, water or environment of the country; and
- (c) whether any assessment has been made to ascertain the consequential benefits and disadvantages and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) National Forest Policy, 1988 envisage a massive need base and time bound programme of afforestation and tree planting, with particular emphasis on fuel-wood and fodder development, on all denuded lands in the country, whether forest or non forest land. Government of India promote plantations of trees under different plantations schemes. As per report of National Forest Commission (1986), Forest plantations area in India is 32.57 million ha. and major species are teak, rosewood, eucalyptus and acacias which accounts for 17% of global plantations.

(b) and (c) No such specific studies have been carried out by Indian Council of Forest Research and Education and its institutes. However, as per literature available eucalyptus plantations do not lower down the water table.

River pollution

1103. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the rivers which have been declared dead due to industrial and man made activities resulting in extreme pollution as in the case of Yamuna in Delhi;
- (b) what are the reasons that Government has not so far learnt any lesson to revive Yamuna and other such rivers, from the rivers abroad like Hudson in New York,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.