

the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme Act, NREGA is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

**Preservation of Kolleru lake**

668. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether officials have visited the Kolleru lake in Andhra Pradesh to examine the wildlife and the impact of illegal fish farms on the health of the water body;
- (b) when this visit took place;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has given directions for the preservation of the Kolleru water body in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) what steps are proposed by Government to ensure that the original extent of the water body would be protected; and
- (e) the status of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) An Expert Team has been constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to study the issues relating to reduction of the Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary boundary. The Expert team had visited the Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary from 20th to 25th September, 2010.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Action would be based on the recommendations of the Expert Team.

**Pollution due to ETP of Hindustan Coca-Cola  
Beverages Pvt. Ltd.**

669. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) had conducted studies of alleged pollution caused by the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) sludge of the Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Private Limited Plant in Palakad district of Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of each of such studies; and
- (c) whether KSPCB has issued any press release in August, 2003 related to the study conducted by it and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A study report on 'Presence of Heavy Metals in Sludge' was prepared in September, 2003 by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) on the basis of inspections of the plant owned by M/s. Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Private

Limited, Palakad. As per the report, the sludge generated during the operation of the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) contained Cadmium and other heavy metals. The concentration of Cadmium in ETP sludge was reported to be 201.8 mg/kg. against the prescribed standards of 50 mg/kg. while, the concentration of Lead as 319.0 mg/kg. The plant is not functioning since March, 2004 as reported by KSPCB.

(c) Two press releases were issued by KSPCB during the year 2003 on this matter. As per the press release issued by the then Chairman, KSPCB, the ETP sludge should be treated as 'hazardous waste' because of high concentration of Cadmium. As a matter of abundant precaution, KSPCB instructed the company not to let the sludge out of the factory premises or use it as a manure even within its premises.

#### **Apprehension over National Green Tribunal Act**

670. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:  
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Forest Minister, Mr. Binoy Viswam has expressed apprehension that the National Green Tribunal Act would lead to dilution of the Forest (Conservation) Act and has called upon the Minister to convene a conference of the State Ministers of forests and environment to discuss issues related to the Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Report on GM foods**

671. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:  
SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the committee appointed by the Ministry on GM crops has submitted its report and has recommended immediate release of Bt. brinjal for commercial cultivation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir; the three Indian Academy of Sciences and the Academies of Engineering, Agricultural Sciences and Medical Sciences were requested by the Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests to provide him and the Planning Commission with a report on the subject of biotechnology in food crops with focus on transgenic crops and on the Biotechnology Regulatory Bill presently under discussion in the government. On Bt Brinjal, the