

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