

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The State of Environment reporting, which is a continuous process is undertaken to understand, analyze and communicate information on condition and trends in the environment.
- (d) The steps taken by the Government to minimize and regulate the environmental degradation in the country include the following:
 - (i) The Environment Impact Assessment process has been made more efficient, de-centralized and transparent through the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendments.
 - (ii) A National Action Plan on Climate Change was released in June, 2008 to outline India's strategy to meet the challenge of climate change.
 - (iii) A National Ganga Basin Authority has been set up in July, 2009 to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the River Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning.
 - (v) The National Ambient Air Quality Standards have been revised notifying limits for 12 pollutants
 - (v) A National Green Tribunal, 2010 has been set up under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 to decide all manner of environmental cases.
 - (vi) The Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) has been launched as a network based programme to make science particularly the three Ms-measuring, modeling and monitoring the essence of policy making in the climate change space.
 - (vii) Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011 was issued for conservation and protection of coastal areas.
 - (viii) Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has been constituted for Afforestation, Protection and Conservation of Forests and Wildlife.

Studies on impact of Bt. cotton

1889. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been any new studies on Bt cotton and its impact;

- (b) if so, the details of their findings;
- (c) whether those findings, in any way, proved helpful in shedding new light on the issue, and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir, Ministry has not come across any new studies on Bt cotton and its impact. The Government of India is following a policy of case by case assessment of genetically modified (GM) crops. In view of various concerns related to the safety, efficacy and agronomic performance of GM seeds, extensive evaluation and regulatory approval process takes place before any GM plant is approved for commercial cultivation. Accordingly, Bt cotton, the only GM crop approved for commercial cultivation has been developed in full compliance with the existing regulatory frame work and biosafety guidelines which are at par with international norms. This includes generation of relevant biosafety information and its elaborate analysis to ensure food, feed and environmental safety. The 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. There is no current scientific evidence to conclude that Bt cotton has adversely impacted the environment or health.

Discharge of effluents into the sea

1890. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether polluting industries along the coastal areas in the country are discharging effluents into the sea directly;
- (b) if so, the details of such industries, State-wise; and
- (c) the action Government proposes to take against such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) Monitoring of marine pollution through Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System Programme is