

Damage of crops by industrial effluence

789. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has studied the impact of dyeing units on local crops in the Erode-Namakkal region of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been a substantial loss of crops due to the mismanaged discharge of industrial effluents; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) As reported by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), it has not conducted any study about the impact of dyeing units in the Erode- Namakkal region of Tamil Nadu. Also there is no study report available with the TNPCB regarding the substantial loss of crops.

- (d) The steps taken by the TNPCB are as follows:
 - (i) The dyeing units in the Erode and Namakkal District of Tamil Nadu have been directed to install Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) system;
 - (ii) The units without treatment systems are issued directions for closure and stoppage of power supply.

Impact of Drynaria Mallis on life saving trees in Himalayan region

†790. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fern named Drynaria Mallis 'BailParjivi' detrimental for the Banj, Buransh, Kail, Kharsu and other trees found in the jungles of the country including Uttarakhand thereby leading to drying up of species of the trees;
- (b) if so, the percentage of infestation of this parasite in different district of the country, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Forest Research Institute, Dehradun has submitted any report to Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether her Ministry has chalked out any action plan to protect the life saving trees of the Himalayan region; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The fern *Drynaria mollis* is not a parasite but an auto-trophic plant which makes its own food through photosynthesis. Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has clarified that it does not have harmful effect on the host plant and removal of the said plant may disturb the ecology of the area. In some mature trees of the Banj, Burans, Kharsu in association with *Drynaria mollis* in Uttarakhand, signs of drying have been observed. However, the conifers are less affected. It may be due to several inconclusive reasons like anthropogenic pressures namely excessive lopping; climate change and other factors.

(c) and (d) The Forest Research Institute, Dehradun has not submitted any report in this regard to the Government of India.

(e) and (f) Government of India and the State Governments have schemes for forest protection in the States including in the Himalayan region. Ministry of Environment and Forests provides Grants-in-aid for protection of forests under Intensification of Forest Management Scheme and other forest management schemes to the State Governments to supplement their efforts for forest protection. The life saving trees such as Banj, Buransh, Kail, Sharsu etc. are conserved and protected on the basis of prescriptions under the management plan duly approved by the Government of India.

Measures for controlling air pollution

791. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the Global Burden of Disease Report which has identified 'Air pollution amongst the top killers in South Asia and India';