

**Curb on spread of Lantana**

1558. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an obnoxious weed called Lantana which was introduced in India by the East India Company as a hedge plant is spreading menacingly throughout the country covering almost 13 million hectares; and

(b) if so, the details of measures taken by Government to arrest further spread of this weed and to recover the land already covered by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Lantana (*Lantana camara van aculeata*) - a native of South America was introduced in India by the British during 1809 as an ornamental plant. Since then, this shrub has invaded almost all possible terrestrial habitats from sub mountainous region of the outer Himalayas to southern most parts of India.

(b) The Ministry provides financial assistance under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat, Project Tiger, Intensification of Forest Management Scheme and National afforestation Programme etc., which *inter-alia* have provisions to control the spread of Lantana. In addition the State/UT Governments are also implementing schemes under respective state sector plans, which have provisions to control spread of Lantana.

**Ban on plastic packages in Himachal Pradesh**

†1559. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of plastic packed items in tonnes, being sold per day in Himachal Pradesh and the time by which the plastic packed junk food will be banned;

(b) the quantum of plastic waste in tonnes generated in Himachal Pradesh and the provision, if any, to recycle this plastic waste;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh to set up any recycling plant; and

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.