

Harmful effects of untreated sewage in food chain

1421. SHRI K.T.S TULSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether untreated sewage is being diverted to farms for farming because it is almost free;
- (b) whether there are any easy/cheaper technologies to treat sewage; and
- (c) whether any study has been conducted to determine harmful effects of sewage in the food chain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) and (b) Studies have revealed that undesirable constituents of untreated wastewater can harm human as well as environment. Accordingly, Government of India, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, Central Pollution Control Board is promoting decentralized treatment of sewage water at the local level using technology based on natural processes. After proper treatment, sewage water is used in pisciculture, irrigation, forestry and horticulture.

Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research & Education – Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed environment friendly, low cost and low energy demanding wastewater treatment technology which reduces organic and nutrient loads and also reduces heavy metal pollution.

- (c) Studies have revealed that no clear modifications of the food web structure and dynamics have been observed and no evidence for direct uptake of sewage has been found.

Revival of Sindri and Barauni fertilizer units

†1422 SHRIHARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fertilizer factory at Sindri has been closed down completely since 2002 and the then Government had passed a proposal to restart the factory in 2007;
- (b) whether Government is contemplating on starting this prestigious factory of the country;
- (c) whether fertilizers factory at Barauni is also closed down along with the above Sindri factory and whether any time bound programme has been formulated to start both these factories; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.