

**Threat to the bio-diversity of the river**

1951. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the deadly fish Piranhas landed in Godavari river and also in coastal Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any assessment about the threat this species poses to the bio-diversity of the river due to its aggressive and predatory nature; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check further spread of this species by initiating measures to eradicate it from the Godavari River System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) An advisory was issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHDF) *vide* letter No.31035/25/96-Fy(3) dated 20th July, 1998 to all the State Governments regarding reported unauthorized introduction of exotic red Piranha (*Pygocentrus nattereri*) in the country. The State Governments were also advised to take necessary action in order to destroy the said species if reported from their States and to check their introduction. Since then, no information has been received from the State Governments about the presence of Piranhas fish in India.

The fish reported by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in Godavari river in 2012 as Piranhas (*Pygocentrus nattereri*), was later confirmed to be Piranha-like Pacu fish (*Piractus brachypomus*) belonging to the same family. The Pacu fish which got introduced in India possibly for aquarium purposes, was later reported in Krishna river also. According to WII, Pacu being an omnivorous fish, is capable of thriving in various aquatic environments and compete with native species for food and other resources.

The DAHDF has sanctioned a project entitled 'Risk and Benefit assessment of an illegally introduced fish species namely: *Piractus brachypomus*, Pacu in India' through National Fisheries Development Board to National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources.

**Rise in earth's temperature**

1952. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that some scientific reports have