

(c) and (d) Groundwater is monitored twice a year (*i.e.* during pre-monsoon and post-monsoon season) for parameters as per the “Guidelines on Water Quality Monitoring 2017” issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The parameters include General parameters, Nutrient parameters, Major ions, Inorganic Parameters, Demand Parameters, and Micropollutants (Pesticides and Heavy metals).

Study to assess pollution in Mannar Biosphere reserve

41. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any study to assess the pollution caused to Gulf of Mannar Biosphere reserve by a Copper plant which is situated 14 kms. from the bioreserve;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust, Government of Tamil Nadu, funded a study entitled ‘Quantification and impact of domestic and industrial effluents discharges in to Gulf of Mannar in Tuticorin district with specific focus on heavy metal concentration in water, sediment and biological samples’ to the Department of Marine Science, Bharathidasan University, Trichy, Tamil Nadu. The Sterlite Copper plant was included in the study and was one among the fifteen sampling stations. The samples were collected during different seasons for the period of July, 2014 to June, 2016 for analysing heavy metals such as Cadmium (Cd), Copper (Cu), Lead (Pb) and Zinc (Zn). The concentration of heavy metals in water and sediment samples of the study area were found higher in the industrial and sewage discharging sites. Also, the concentration of heavy metals were found to be more in sediment samples than in water samples.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Status of diversion of forest land in Belgaum

42. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request for diversion of 72 hectares of forest land from Karnataka Government to Rani Chennamma University in Belgaum district; and