

(b) if so, the corrective action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether Monsanto has not joined hands with a large Indian Co., MAHCO in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for preventing Monsanto from achieving its nefarious designs ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) A US Patent No. 5723765 entitled "Control of plant gene expression" was assigned on 3.3.98 to Delta & Pine Land Co., USA and the US Department of Agriculture. The seed terminator technology has not yet been developed to a stage for commercial application. The Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage (P.P.Q. & S), Department of Agriculture and Cooperation have issued a directive to stop the entry of seeds containing terminator technology in India.

(c) In accordance with the industrial licensing policy, Monsanto has acquired 26% of the total equity of Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd. (MAHYCO), Mumbai. Monsanto has also setup another joint venture company with MAHYCO with 50% equity and the name of this joint venture company is MAHYCO MONSANTO Biotech (India) Pvt. Ltd.

(d) Various steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the entry of seeds with Terminator technology in India. In the proposed Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Protection Legislation, being formulated by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, necessary provisions will be made to prohibit registration of seeds with Terminator technology.

Naming of a University

3496. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to name any University after South African Associate of Mahatma Gandhi, Thillaidi Valliammai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Royal Bengal Tigers in Sunderban

3497. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken initiative in increasing the population of Royal Bengal Tigers in Sunderban Area, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of tiger population for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether there is massive deforestation in Sunderban and its neighbouring areas is causing great ecological imbalance and at the same time putting a negative impact on the animal population; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop this trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Year of enumeration	Tiger Population in Sunderban T.R.	Tiger Population in Sunderban outside T.R.	Total Tiger Population in Sunderban
1989	269	28	297
1993	251	26	277
1997	263	35	298

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Establishment of National Waterway in Kerala

3498. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a National Waterway connecting the Coastal districts of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount to be involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Champakara and Udyogmandal canals connecting coastal districts of Thrissur, Emakulam, Kottayam, Alapuzha and Kollam has already been declared as National Waterway No. 3.

The developmental works such as dredging to provide the navigational channel with desired depth and width, provision of navigational aids, repair/maintenance of locks, etc. are being undertaken. Land acquisition for construction of terminals and for widening of the canal is also in progress.

(c) The Detailed Project Report for development of National Waterway No. 3, prepared in 1992, envisaged a total cost of Rs. 65.34 crores for creation of infrastructure i.e. waterway and terminals.