

**Fishes Affected by Unknown Disease in Kerala**

[English]

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1191. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN  
SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fish disease experts have identified the unknown disease which has affected the fish species in Vembanad lake the canals and ponds surrounding the lake in Kerala;

(b) if so, the cause for this disease; and

(c) the estimated loss due to this disease and the remedial measures taken so far and further steps proposed to be taken to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Inst., Barrackpore and Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture, Madras have identified the fish disease in Kerala backwaters as Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (E.U.S.). The causative factors of this disease are suspected to be bacterial, viral and fungal in origin, associated with environmental degradation in the affected area due to pollution.

(c) Government of Kerala have estimated a loss of about Rs. 19.8 crores. Various measures suggested to contain the disease are (i) treatment of the affected manageable water areas with lime and salt, (ii) Treatment of affected fish with potassium permagnate and (iii) to maintain hygienic condition in open waters.

**Production of LPG**

1192. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn any plan to increase the production of LPG, and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). It is proposed to increase the LPG production in the country through setting up of new production units and augmenting the production in the existing units.

**Prices of Petrol and Petroleum Products**

1193. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the prices of petrol and other petroleum products have been increased during the last two years; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The prices of petrol and some other petroleum products have been increased three times during the last two years.

(b) Any change in the prices of petroleum products is made by the Government, keeping in view supplies, growth in demand and other socio-economic factors.

**Diamond Processing Units**

1194. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Diamond processing units in the country both in private and public sector;

(b) whether some of those units are in a deplorable condition at present;