

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1942  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003  
ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES OF EUCALYPTUS TREE  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of advantages and disadvantages of Eucalyptus trees;
- (b) whether the Eucalyptus tree has caused severe damage to cultivable and non-cultivable land;
- (c) if so, whether any scientific assessment has been made in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereafter?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

- (a) The genus Eucalyptus comprises about 700 species which show a lot of genetic diversity both with regard to qualitative and quantitative traits. Eucalyptus species has been extensively planted in India owing to their faster rate of growth. The species are planted as short-rotation crop (8-10 years). Eucalyptus is subjected to various uses like pulpwood, sawn timber, fencing poles, firewood and extraction of aromatic oils, tannins, oxalic acid. This is one of the short rotation species to meet the demand of pulp and paper based industries, which is increasing day-by-day. Owing to faster rate of growth, it has capability of absorbing more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and produce more oxygen resulting into more efficient pollution control in shorter duration and conservation of environment. There is no concrete evidence to show that Eucalyptus trees are disadvantageous.
- (b) No Sir.
- (c) & (d) Eucalyptus is a fast growing tree species. The water requirement of this species is higher than various slower growing tree species. However, Eucalyptus is relatively efficient in terms of production of biomass against per unit quantity of water absorbed. When grown on suitable sites, there are no ill effects to the environment.
- (e) Does not arise.