

*[English]***Imposing Ban on Book**

4704. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to notice of the Government that a foreign publication written by Mr. Jeffrey J. Kripal contains disparaging remarks about Saint Sri Ramakrishna;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to impose ban on the sale of this book in India; and

(c) the suggestions received by the Government to take up the matter appropriately with the U.S. Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The matter has been brought to the notice of the Government based on a review published in the Delhi Edition of the 'Statesman' of 31st January, 1997. However, our enquiries have revealed that the Department of Revenue, to date, has not received any reference from any of the field formations, under its jurisdiction, regarding import of any such publication. In view of this position, it is not possible to proceed further for consideration of banning entry of the book in India.

Prawn Culture

4705. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from N.G.Os. functioning in the Coastal districts regarding non-implementation of directions of the Supreme Court concerning Prawn Culture in the Coastal Areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the directions given by the Apex Court in the case of S. Jagannathan Vs. Union of India and others;

(d) the steps taken or propose to be taken by the Government to implement the directions of the Supreme Court; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to promote environment friendly schemes of prawn cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These representations have favoured the implementation of Supreme Court's judgement dated 11.12.1996 and have opposed any move to amend the

Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Other representations have also been received seeking continuance of shrimp aquaculture.

(c) The directions of the Supreme Court in the case of Shri S. Jagannathan Vs. Union of India and others are given in statement enclosed.

(d) A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking review of the judgement of the Supreme Court has stayed the operation of its judgement till the 31st July, 1987. The matter is sub-judice.

(e) The Government has issued guidelines for sustainable development and management of brackishwater aquaculture in August, 1995 with the intention of promoting environment friendly shrimp/prawn aquaculture.

Statement

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement delivered on 11.12.1996 has imposed certain restrictions on shrimp farming along the coastal belt. The Judgement inter-alia states that :

(i) The Central Government shall constitute an authority under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and shall confer on the said authority all the powers necessary to protect the ecologically fragile coastal areas, sea shore, waterfront and other coastal areas and specially to deal with the situation created by the Shrimp culture industry in the coastal states, Union Territories. The authority so constituted by the Central Government shall implement 'the Precautionary Principle' and 'the Polluter Pays Principle'.

(ii) No Shrimp culture pond can be constructed or set up within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) except farms practising traditional and improved traditional types of technologies in the coastal low lying areas. This shall be applicable to all seas, bays, estuaries, creeks rivers and backwaters.

(iii) All Aquaculture industries/shrimp culture industries/shrimp culture ponds operating/set up in the coastal regulation zone as defined under the CRZ Notification shall be demolished and removed from the said area before March 31, 1997.

(iv) No aquaculture industry/shrimp culture industry/shrimp culture ponds shall be constructed/set up within 1000 meter of Chilka Lake and Pulicat Lake (including Bird Sanctuaries, namely Yudurapattu and Nelappattu).

(v) Agricultural Lands, salt pan lands, mangroves, wet lands forest lands, land for village common purposes and land meant for public purposes, shall not be used/converted for construction of shrimp culture ponds.