

and utilised for irrigation. Industrial Pollution of the rivers is controlled under the environmental laws enforced by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards.

11. Waste Minimisation Circles are being established for control of pollution at source for certain highly polluting industries, such as electroplating units, textile dyes and printing units, tanneries and agro-based paper units.
12. Environmental Audit has been made compulsory for certain categories of industrial units.
13. For controlling vehicular pollution, emission norms at the manufacturing stage were introduced for the first time in 1990. These were made more tighter in 1996. More stringent emission norms will come into effect from 1.4.2000. Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
14. Low lead petrol had been introduced in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. June 1994. Subsequently, unleaded petrol was introduced in these four cities with effect from 1.4.1995. Effective from 1.9.1998, only unleaded petrol is being supplied in Delhi.
15. The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has been set up for the National Capital Region for protecting and improving the quality of environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution. Similarly, an authority has been set up for controlling industrial pollution in the state of Tamil Nadu.
16. The Ministry has initiated environmental epidemiological studies in seven critically polluted areas located in Gujarat, Orissa, Mumbai, Kerala, U.P., Punjab and Delhi.
17. Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.

Girls' Education

*107. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have decided to make education free for girls upto graduation;

(b) if so, the details regarding the issue of instructions to the States and the Universities in this regard;

(c) whether this will not affect other priority areas in Education; and

(d) if so, the schemes proposed to be chalked out to deal with it?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) National Agenda for Governance (NAG) envisages to make plans for free education for girls upto college level including professional courses. The modalities of such plans are being worked out.

(c) This will not affect other priority areas.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of National Highways

*108. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to develop the National highways on priority basis;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry have sent any proposal to the Ministry of Finance to enhance the amount of Central Road Fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Finance Ministry have not augmented the CRF till date;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The matter regarding augmentation of the Central Road Fund has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance and is under consideration.

Smuggling of Medicinal Herbs

*109. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the Medicinal Herbs whose export is banned in the country;

(b) whether these Medicinal Herbs worth crores of rupees are being illegally exported in the guise of their local names;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty of smuggling; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to save these herbs from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) The list of medicinal plants whose export is banned is given in the attached statement-I. However, the export of the formulations prepared from these species are allowed for export without any restrictions. Cultivated plants of these species are also allowed for export.

(b) and (c) No Sir. Only a few cases of attempted smuggling of medicinal herbs in small quantities have been detected by the officials of this Ministry.

(d) Action has been taken against the offenders under the provisions of Customs Act.

(e) Steps taken to save these herbs are as follows :

1. Collection of wild plant species covered under Schedule VI of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 from any forest land or specified area has been banned by law.
2. Export of 29 species of plant or plant portion and their derivatives obtained from the wild have been prohibited.
3. Export of plants other than above 29 species requires a legal Procurement Certificate (LPC) from Regional Deputy Director, Wildlife Preservation, Ministry of Environment & Forests or Chief Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests of the State concerned from where these plants have been procured.
4. The cultivated variety of plant/plant portions of the 29 banned species can be allowed for export subject to production of certificate of cultivation and a CITES permit, wherever applicable.
5. International trade in India with respect to species covered under Appendix I of CITES is prohibited and for 17 species, covered under Appendix II of CITES, is regulated under the provisions of the CITES.
6. Frequent checks are carried out by the wildlife authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild plants reaches them.

Statement

The export of under mentioned 29 Plants, Plant portions and their derivatives and extracts as such obtained from the wild except the formulations* made therefrom, is prohibited :-

1. *Beddomea cycad* (*Cycas beddomei*).
2. Blue vanda (*Vanda coerulea*)
3. *Saussurea costus*
4. Ladies slipper orchid (*Paphiopedilium* species)
5. Pitcher plant (*Nepenthes khasiana*)
6. Red vanda (*Renanthera imschootiana*)
7. *Rauwolfia serpentina* (*Sarpangandha*)
8. *Ceropegia* species
9. *Frera indica* (*Shindal Mankundi*)
10. *Podophyllum hexandrum* (*emodi*) (*Indian Podophyllum*)
11. *Cya theaceae* species (*Tree Ferns*).
12. *Cyca dacea* species (*Cycads*)
13. *Dioscorea deltoidea* (*Elephant's foot*)
14. *Euphorbia* species (*Euphobias*)
15. *Orchidaceae* species (*Orchids*)
16. *Pterocarpus santalinus* (*Redsanders*)
17. *Taxus Wallichiana* (*Common Yew or Birmi leaves*)
18. *Aquilaria malaccensis* (*Agarwood*)
19. *Aconitum* species
20. *Coptis teeta*
21. *Coscinium fenestrum* (*Calumba wood*)
22. *Dactylorhiza hatagirea*
23. *Gentiana Kurro* (*Kuru, Kutki*)
24. *Gnetum* species
25. *Kampheria Galenga*
26. *Nardostachys grandiflora*
27. *Panax pseudoginseng*
28. *Picrorhiza kurrooa*
29. *Swertia chirata* (*Charayatah*)

* The term "formulation" used here shall include products which may contain portions/extracts of plants on the prohibited list but only in unrecognizable and physically inseparable form.