

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.762**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2018

**Neela Kurinji**

762. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has announced Scheme for protection of exotic Neela Kurinji (*Strobilanthus Kunthianus*) plants recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has noted that these rare and ecologically unique flowers are being packaged and sold on the commercial basis; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Tamilnadu Government has announced a scheme for protection of exotic Neela Kurinji (*Strobilanthus Kunthianus*). The Neela Kurinji, native to the Western Ghats, is a major attraction to foreign and native tourists and one of the prime foreign exchange earners from tourism. Though the taxon has not yet been assessed for the IUCN Red List, the Tamilnadu government has recently announced a scheme for the protection of the unique Neela Kurinji plants (confined to South Western Ghats in India) that flower only once in 12 years.

(c) and (d) Yes, complaints have been reported regarding selling of these flowers on commercial basis. Following such complaints, the State department has warned that strict fines will be imposed on offenders. Placards, announcing the new initiative, have been placed in various vantage points of the Nilgiri district of Tamilnadu.

\*\*\*\*\*