

[*English*]

Illegal Felling and Smuggling of Red Sandal Wood in A. P.

6986. SHRI RAJAMOHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Red Sandal Wood is being cut illegally from the forests of Andhra Pradesh and then smuggled out to foreign countries and sold there at very high price;

(b) whether there is no provision in the Indian forest act empowering it to seize the smuggled Red Sandal Wood once it crosses the Andhra Pradesh border;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1980 suitably so that Red Sandal Wood may be seized anywhere on the Indian soil; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d). The provision of Indian Forest Act, 1927 are found to be inadequate to stop smuggling of red sandels wood which is reported to occur through Madras. The Central Government is considering introducing a bill for dealing with cases of Red-sanders in the country.

Pollution due to use of Pesticides

6987. SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great danger to wildlife, domestic animals and public health due to widespread use of pesticides for agriculture and if so, the corrective action taken in this regard; and

(b) whether any Voluntary Health Groups have been writing to the Government on this subject and if so, details of action taken on the Reports received on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Food contamination studies undertaken by the Directorate of Health Services on the occurrence of pesticides residue in common items of food show that a majority of items contain pesticides (organochlorine) within the prescribed tolerance limit. More studies are being undertaken to enable definite conclusions to be drawn.

(b) The Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) has prepared a status report on Pesticide Residue vis-a-vis Consumer Protection and has communicated the recommendations contained in the Status Report to the Ministry. The Government has constituted a Standing Committee on Pesticides under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to review the status of pesticide use in the country.

Evaluation of Answer Sheets by Delhi University

6988. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether University of Delhi have stopped the Centralised evaluation of answer sheets for the ensuing Annual examinations; if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether due to this system Annual results of a large number of students for 1989 were seriously affected and consequently they applied for revaluation of their scripts and the revaluation results were declared very late; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures proposed to provide relief to affected students?