

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3367
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13-3-2020

Alien Species in Riverine Ecosystem

3367. SHRI DM KATHIR ANAND:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the presence of alien species in the riverine ecosystem of the country including Western Ghats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the areas which are more prone to it;
- (c) whether the Government has estimated the loss of wildlife and vegetation due to these invasive species especially in Tamil Nadu;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) and (b) A number of alien plants and animals get variously introduced in the Indian riverine system from time immemorial. Few such introduced species such as Water Hyacinth, Water cabbage, Giant salvinia, Nile/red tilapia, African catfish, common carp etc. have emerged as affecting the aquatic biodiversity of some of the sites in the riverine ecosystem in India including in Western Ghats.
- (c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not undertaken any assessment of loss of wildlife and vegetation due to invasive species in the country including Tamil Nadu.
- (e) The National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031) has considered this matter and has indicated priority project for management of Invasive Alien Species so as to protect the native biodiversity.
