

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4482
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2000
TREES INFESTED WITH SAL BORER
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH;MAHESHWAR SINGH;SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that a large number of trees of Northern India are victim of a disease called sal borer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the nature of the disease which may have widespread ramifications on the ecological system; and
- (c) the remedial steps being taken to check the disease, stall its spread and prevent its reappearance?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) to (c) : Yes, Sir. Sal forests in Madhya Pradesh and some parts of sal forests in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have been affected by sal borer disease. It was first noticed in 1995 in Mandla and adjoining districts of Madhya Pradesh. The matter was referred by them to the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) Dehradun for guidance. ICFRE advised to conduct `Trap tree operation` during the months of monsoon to check the beetle population and recommended removal of affected trees. Government of India had set up a task force to study the problem, extent of damage and suggest remedial measures. A Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General, ICFRE was set up to suggest long term measures to check sal borer attack. Government of India had advised Madhya Pradesh Government to undertake `Trap tree operation` and felling of totally dead trees. A committee under the Chairmanship of Director, Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur was set up to supervise marking of trees for felling. The State Government has stopped felling of sal trees in areas unaffected by sal borer in other districts of Madhya Pradesh to compensate for the tree felling being done in affected areas. To supplement the regeneration process, dribbling of seeds of sal and other miscellaneous species will be done in critical areas.