

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1146
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
CUTTING OF TREES IN FORESTS
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

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

- (a) whether illegal felling of trees is going on unabated in eastern side of forests in Vadodara district of Gujarat as the wood of Teak, Khem, Sheesham and Mahua trees is available in the market on half the price fixed by the Government despite ban on cutting of trees;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government have made any assessment to ascertain the facts in this regard;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the effective steps being contemplated by the Government to check illegal cutting of forests?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

- (a) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.
- (b)&(c) No, Sir. There is no information with Union Government regarding such illegal felling.
- (d) Major steps taken by the government to check illegal cutting of forests are:
 1. Guidelines have been issued to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of forests through Joint Forest Management.
 2. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate diversion of forest land.
 3. A centrally sponsored scheme Modern Forest Fire Control Methods is being implemented to protect and conserve the forests from fire.
 4. Special measures for protection and conservation of tigers and elephants and their habitat are being implemented.
 5. A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna.
 6. Afforestation programme are being undertaken.