

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:285

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004

ILLCIT FELLING OF TREES

Pateriya Smt. Neeta;Patil Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large scale illicit felling of trees has been taking place in the country ;
- (b) if so, the number of cases which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years, State-wise ;
- (c) whether chawkidaars have also been posted alongwith forest officers in the forests ;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (e) whether the Government propose to introduce any legislation to put a ban on illicit felling of trees ;
- (f) if so, by when it is likely to be enacted and if not, the reasons therefor ; and
- (g) the other steps being taken by the Government to check this activity ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (g) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.285 due for reply on 16.8.2004 regarding illicit felling of trees.

- (a) The incidents of illicit felling of trees have been detected from time to time in different parts of the country.
- (b) State-wise number of cases, as reported by the State Governments during the last three years is annexed.
- (c)&(d) Depending on the vulnerability of the forest area to illicit felling and availability of funds etc. Chowkidars are engaged to assist the beat officer (forest guard). The position may vary from state to state.
- (e)&(f) There are adequate legislations like Indian Forest Act, 1927, State Forest Acts, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 etc. which prohibit the illicit felling of trees. No new legislation is necessary.
- (g) The other steps are:

(i) Seizure, confiscation of vehicles and articles involved in illicit felling, arresting and prosecution of offenders by the State Governments in accordance with the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and State Forest Acts.

(ii) Regular patrolling by field staff.

(iii) Inspection of forest produce in transit and checking of saw mills.

(iv) Strengthening of wireless networking.

(v) Acquiring and use of fire arms by field staff in vulnerable areas.

(vi) Protection, conservation and management of forests by the active involvement of local communities through the process of Joint Forest Management.

(vii) Deployment of Home guards and State Police personnel in special situations.

(viii) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments under various centrally sponsored forestry and wildlife schemes for the protection and conservation of forests and wildlife.

(ix) Creation of network of protected areas i.e Wildlife National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in part (b) of the statement in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.285 due for reply on 16.8.2004 regarding illicit felling of trees.

S.No. State Year No. of cases

1. Assam 2001-02 578
2002-03 690
2003-04 447

2. Arunachal Pradesh 2001-02 12
2002-03 29
2003-04 35

3. Bihar 2001-02 603
2002-03 343
2003-04 21064
2003-04 18196

5. Gujarat 2001-02 3761
2002-03 4361
2003-04 4432

6. Goa 2001 1422
2002 1515

7. Himachal Pradesh 2001-02 2850
2002-03 2513
2003-04 409
upto 31-5-04

8. J&K 2001-02 7094
2002-03 4490
2003-04 3110

9. Jharkhand 2001-02 924
2002-03 1056

2003-04 1339

10. Karnataka 2001-02 11709
2002-03 11091
2003-04 10061

11. Andhra Pradesh 2001-02 32,720
2002-03 45,526
2003-04 38,699

12. Kerala 2001-02 1478
2002-03 1386

13. Maharashtra 2001-02 54977
2002-03 41888
2003-04 32940

14. Madhya Pradesh 2001-02 62366
2002-03 70132
2003-04 44333

15. Mizoram 2001-02 104
2002-03 -
2003-04 -

16. Nagaland 2001-02 1
2002-03 2
2003-04 2

17. Punjab 2001-02 3819
2002-03 4650

18. Rajasthan 2001-02 5829

19. Tamil Nadu 2001-02 9040
2002-03 9650
2003-04 9761

20. Tripura 2001-02 860
2002-03 4841
2003-04 -

21. Uttar Pradesh 2001-02 4897
2002-03 5101
2003-04 4279

22. Uttranchal 2001-02 2364
2002-03 2229
2003-04 1698

23. West Bengal 2001-02 14829
2002-03 12969
2003-04 11315

24. Sikkim 2001-02 48

2002-03 28
2003-04 61