

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3423
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
CUTTING OF TREES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH
Sushant Dr. Rajan

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

- (a) Whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has given any direction about removing the partial ban on cutting of green trees like khair etc. in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a Committee of the Union Government has visited Himachal Pradesh in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the findings of Committee ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) The Supreme Court of India vide its Order dated 8th may, 2009 in I.A. No. 2370 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Union of India & Ors accepted the following recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC):

1. Felling of trees from the forest area approved for non-forestry use under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act (F.C. Act) may continue to be permissible.
2. Compact wooded blocks of above five hectares, which are otherwise not notified/recorded as forest, should be treated as "forests" for the purpose of the F.C. Act. Felling of trees and non-forest use of such areas should be permissible only after obtaining approval under the F.C. Act.
3. Felling of trees in non-forest areas should be strictly regulated as per the provisions of the Land Preservation Act, 1978; and
4. No felling of trees or non-forest use of area falling within the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries should be permissible unless specifically permitted by this Hon'ble Court.

The recommendation of the C.E.C is extended to the whole of State of Himachal Pradesh except in respect of Khair trees from the non-forest areas.

(c)&(d) No Committee of the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests has visited Himachal Pradesh in this regard.