

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:70
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011
CHECK ON ILLEGAL FELLING OF TREES
Anuragi Shri Ghansyam

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

- (a) whether there has been illegal felling of trees in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it has caused a serious threat to the country's environment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (e) Large rural population and people living in the vicinity of forests are dependent on forests for sustenance. Also there is huge demand for timber/ small timber from forests which results in illegal felling of trees across various States. The Forest Departments in all State Governments have an elaborate forest protection machinery to prevent such activities. The forest protection force is also equipped with wireless sets, weapons and trained manpower. State Governments are empowered to protect forests from illegal felling as per the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927. The details of illegal felling is attached as Annexure. Illegal felling is always in a very small scale. So, it has not caused a serious threat to country's environment. The State Governments take action against the guilty persons under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927.