

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4339

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011

PROTECTION OF FORESTS

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram; Das Shri Ram Sundar; Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun; Gohain Shri Rajen; Pandey Saroj; Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

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

- (a) whether forest products are being allegedly exploited illegally by the naxalites in the naxal affected areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether a number of trees including teak and sandalwood are being felled illegally and allegedly smuggled at a large scale from the bordering areas of naxal-hit States in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal for setting up of special task force to check the increasing felling and smuggling of the said trees in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) There are no reports available in the Ministry on illegal exploitation of forest products by naxalites in the naxal affected areas. However, the local forest dwellers including tribals are permitted under various Forest Acts/ Rules/ Regulations to collect forest products for their bonafide consumption and sustenance.

(c) & (d) No large scale felling of teak and sandalwood has been reported from naxal-hit States or from bordering areas of naxal-hit States in the country. Stray incidents of felling do occur for which officials of State forest Departments take action as per the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927/ State Acts.

(e) & (f) No proposal for setting up of special task force is under consideration of the Central Government to check felling and smuggling of teak and sandalwood trees. However, various steps such as regular checking of beats, patrolling of forest areas by field staff and Special Reserve Police (SRP), checking of vehicles at forest nakas/ check posts, joint patrolling with other agencies, etc., are being taken to check any illegal felling and smuggling.