

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1321

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011

ENVIRONMENTAL NORMS

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

- (a) whether there is a need to build capacity among wood-based industries to comply with global standards and enhance market access;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to implement strict forest and environmental certification requirements for wood-based and agro-forestry sector in the country for marketing / trading purposes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken / being taken by the Government to comply with global standards and enhance market access by wood-based and agro-forestry sector in the country?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The wood based industries involved in export of wood products need capacity building to comply with global standards to enhance market access as global standards are intended to prohibit import of illegally sourced timber or products from the foreign countries.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has taken steps to operationalize the mechanism of forest certification after observing the prescribed procedure in order to enhance the value of the wood products including agro forestry plantations exported from India.