

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4952
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
SMUGGLING OF FOREST PRODUCTS
Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) whether the smuggling of forest products particularly from tribal areas has increased in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the last three years;
- (c) the number of persons found guilty for these activities during the said period, year-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check such activities in the country?

Answer

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

- (a) No, Sir. Smuggling of forest products particularly from tribal areas has not increased in the country.
- (b) & (c) Question does not arise.
- (d) Protection of forests is the responsibility of the State Governments. State Forest Departments control illegal felling and smuggling of forest products through patrolling in the forest area by forest personnel, establishment of base camps in vulnerable areas, deployment of strike forces, flying squads, involvement of Forest Protection Committees, search and seizure of illegal material and prosecution of people involved in smuggling of forest products. Number of check nakas have been installed in vulnerable areas to control illegal movement of forest produce. Under the "Joint Forest Management" (JFM) in the last two decades, people's participation in forest management and conservation and has also helped to reduce illegal removal of forest produce from forests.