

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:661
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012
BAN ON SMUGGLING OF TEAKWOOD TREES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed the cutting and smuggling of Teakwood trees on large scale the naxal affected in border areas of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to constitute Special Task Force to check in increasing incidents of cutting and smuggling of Teakwood trees in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) 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 is information from the State Government of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh regarding some illicit felling of Teakwood in the inter State border areas of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Details of forest offence in Sironcha Division of Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra is annexed.

(c),(d) & (e) No. The Government does not propose to constitute a Special Task Force to check in increasing incidents of cutting and smuggling of Teakwood trees in the country. However, the steps being taken by the State Governments of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh to control illegal felling are as follows:

(i) Establishment of Control room with adequate staff headed by Range Officer at strategic locations on both sides of border Tekada in Maharashtra side and Neelwai in Andhra Pradesh side.

(ii) Joint patrolling after consultation at local level.

(iii) Exchange of Telephone numbers for co-ordination of protection between concerned officers of the two states.

(iv) Inter State Co-ordination has been improved by the organising meetings between the Forest Department of two States to take joint action to control this illegal activity. Co-ordination meeting is being held regularly.

(v) Establishment of control room at Mahadevpur with staff and vehicles on Andhra Pradesh Side and strengthening of control room at Sironcha.

(vi) Placement of extra staff at Lenkalagadda adjacent to Nadikuda village and armed staff from Sironcha division to camp at Lenkalagadda along with Andhra Pradesh State.

In addition, Government of India is supporting Forest Protection activities in two States by providing funds under Centrally Sponsored Scheme Intensification of Forest Management Scheme, for protection including protection against illicit felling.