

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2056
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
SMUGGLING OF SANDALWOOD
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

- (a) whether Sandalwood Smuggling is rampant in the country and there was a seizure of a sizeable quantity of sandalwood in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check such activities;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to launch any scheme to popularize plantation of Sandalwood trees in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) & (b) No, Sir. No large scale smuggling of Sandalwood has been reported from different parts of the country. No sizeable quantity of sandalwood seizure has been reported in Delhi.
- (c) Various steps have been initiated at State and Central Government level including funding for strengthening the infrastructure for protection machinery of various States and Union Territories, which has the primary responsibility for protection of forests, under the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme of Ministry of Environment and Forests apart from implementing the legal provisions under Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 etc.
- (d) & (e) There is no specific scheme to popularize plantation of sandalwood trees in the country by Government of India.