

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4276
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
TIMBER SMUGGLING
Das Shri Ram Sundar

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

- (a) the number of cases relating to timber smuggling brought to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise/U.T.-wise;
- (b) the number of such cases pending in the courts and details of action initiated in other cases during the above period;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to constitute a task force to check the timber smuggling in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the states where such task force has been deployed to check timber smuggling?

Answer

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

- (a)&(b) State Governments/Union Territories are responsible for forest protection including control on the timber smuggling and cases taken to the court subsequently. Hence the data relating to timber smuggling and cases pending in the court is not collated at Central Government level.
- (c)to(e)There is no proposition from Government of India to constitute a task force to check the timber smuggling in the country. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme: Intensification of Forest Management provides financial assistance to strengthen the infrastructure for forest protection including steps to be taken by the State Government/Union Territories to check timber smuggling.