

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5687

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015

SAW MILLS

Gohain Shri Rajen

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

- (a) whether there has been reports of damage to the environment due to operation of numerous unlicensed and illegal small saw mills in the North Eastern Region of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number of unlicensed small saw mills operating in the North Eastern Region, particularly in Assam;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to check the unholy nexus between owner of the unlicensed saw mills and Government officials; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) The Ministry has not received any Report regarding damage to the environment due to operation of unlicensed small saw mill in the North Eastern Region.

(c) to (e) The information pertaining to unlicensed saw mills is not maintained in the Ministry. However, as per the reports received from the Forest Department of Assam and Manipur, the number of illegal saw mills is 111 and 174 respectively. The respective State Governments take necessary action as per the extant rules and regulations. Further, as per the report received from Forest Department of Mizoram there is no unlicensed saw mill in the State and the Forest Department of Meghalaya has informed that the instances of unlicensed saw mills working on temporary basis have come to the notice and remedial action is taken under Meghalaya Forest Regulation Act, 1973.