

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:847
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015
SMUGGLING OF RED SANDERS AND SANDALWOOD
Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized consignments of over 57,000 kg. of red sanders and sandalwood being smuggled through a firm in Noida Special Economic Zone (SEZ);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number of times such consignment were seized during the last three years, location and quantity-wise; and
- (d) the steps/measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb such practices in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA)

(a)&(b): Yes. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 12.82 MTs of Red Sanders being smuggled in a container at ICD, Tughlakabad in the guise of exports of a firm in Noida SEZ in October, 2014 on forged Shipping Bill.

In the follow-up action, 41.88 MTs of Red Sanders was seized in a godown in Delhi. Besides, 2.37 MTs of Sandal wood was also seized in November, 2014 at ICD, Tughlakabad in a different case and 05 persons have been arrested.

(c) The details of cases of Red Sanders seized by the Customs formations during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	No.of cases	Qty (in MTs)	Value
2011-12	93	931.99	105.17
2012-13	101	967.07	115.24
2013-14	322	922.26	230.37
2014-15	118	526.17	191.48

(uptoJan,15)

The details of cases of Sandalwood seized by the Customs formations during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	No.of cases	Qty (in MTs)	Value
2011-12	2	14.79	1.47
2012-13	2	21.4	2.09
2013-14	79	3.13	0.3
2014-15	21	3.69	4.31

(uptoJan,15)

The locations where the above consignments of Red Sander and Sandalwood were seized are as below:-

Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune, Thiruchirappalli and Shillong.

(d) Field formations have been suitably alerted and sensitized by way of sharing modus operandi circulars to prevent smuggling of Red Sanders and Sandalwood. Surveillance has also been enhanced by the Customs at International Airports, Ports and Land Customs Stations (International Borders). Action under the Customs Act, 1962 has been initiated against the guilty persons.