

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3842
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
FELLING OF TREES
Nimmala Shri Kristappa

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

- (a) whether indiscriminate felling of trees is being done without permission for development of infrastructural projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of trees cut for these projects during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the impact on environment due to such felling of trees;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government to check felling of trees?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) No reports regarding indiscriminate felling of trees for development of infrastructure projects have been received in the Ministry. However, sporadic incidents of tree felling do take place, wherein, action is taken by the respective State /Union Territory Governments as per the extant laws, rules and regulations. Permission for cutting of trees for development purposes is given by the respective State/UT Governments following due process. The information regarding number of trees cut for infrastructure projects is not compiled at the level of the Ministry.

(c), (d)& (e) As no report regarding indiscriminate felling has been received in the Ministry, no such assessment regarding the impact on environment due to such felling of trees is done. However, project specific studies are generally conducted in cases involving diversion of forest areas for non-forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and for the cases requiring environment clearances under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These studies assess the environmental impact of the projects and suggest mitigation measures.