

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3752
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014
ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION
Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

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

- (a) whether experts have warned the wood-based industries of stricter forest and environmental certification requirements in the future in the international market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to build capacity among wood-based industries to comply with global standards and enhance market access and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which the Government is likely to comply with stricter forest and environment certification requirements in future?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has been sensitizing about the stricter forest and environmental certification requirements among wood-based industries to comply with global standards and enhance access in the international market. IIFM conducts training programmes, workshops and publishes books/ monograph/ research articles on this subject from time to time. The course curriculum of the various academic programmes at IIFM also includes these subjects. Forest based industries also employs some of the candidates who successfully complete their course at IIFM, who help the industry in this field. In order to combat the timber legality issues, the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) has come up with the scheme namely "VRKSH"- Indian Timber Legality Assessment and Verification Scheme to build the due diligence system for wooden handicrafts exporters.