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Title: Need to take steps to preserve Sandalwood and Teak grown in Karnataka - laid.

SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR (MYSORE): The State of Karnataka is famous for its rich heritage, culture and its values. The state has many specialties apart from being called the land of Kannadigas, Land of Gold (referred to Goldfield-Kolar) as well as the land of SANDALWOOD. This precious species of wood is grown only in Karnataka and specifically in malenadu and adjoining regions of malenadu like Mysore, Chikmagalur, Dharwar etc., and this cannot be grown anywhere else in India as it requires a specific climatic and geological conditions. The Government's decision to ban by restricting growing/cultivating of Sandalwood to Government only, thereby barring farmers from growing has made the Government to fail sustainably to grow/cultivate sandalwood. So as to protect and preserve this valuable species, it is high time that government should think to amend its earlier decision and allow the farmers to grow and cultivate Sandalwood as a crop. As cultivation of Sandalwood is restricted to a small region, it is an easier task to Government to have a suitable supervisory mechanism for controlling illegal sale and thereby ensure proper marketing system in place. Such a decision would not only improve the availability of Sandalwood in the market but also help the farmers ensuring remunerative price and also arrest the Government in earning huge foreign exchange.

This region of Mysore produces another original species of Teak. Though teak is grown in other parts like Dandeli, teak grown here has the highest oil content which attracts huge demand. Considering the nature and unique qualities of these species, it is our duty to preserve these valuable species for posterity. Hence, I urge the Government to evolve a new scheme providing for cultivation/protection of these two species with public participation with the Government.