

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYASABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1781
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 17.03.2022

Illegal mining and tree cutting in forests of Chhattisgarh

1781. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of illegal mining and tree cutting in other forest areas including Balrampur-Ramanujganj district of the State of Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details of punitive action taken against the officers involved in this; and
- (c) whether Government has made an assessment of the environmental effects caused by such kind of illegal mining and tree cutting in forests, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) Protection and management of forest and tree resources is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administration. There are legal frameworks for protection and management of forest resources of the country which include, Indian Forest Act 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and State Forest Acts, Tree Preservation Acts, and Rules etc. The State Governments /UT Administrations take appropriate actions to protect forests and trees in accordance with the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules.

As per report received from Government of Chhattisgarh, illegal mining and tree cutting in an offence under Section 26 and Section 33 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

Field units of the forest department have been instructed for intensive patrolling and to keep vigil in the forest areas and also to take action as per law against illegal mining and tree cutting cases in forest areas including Balrampur- Ramanujganj district of Chhattisgarh.

- (b) As reported by Government of Chhattisgarh, no officer has been found to be involved in illegal mining and tree cutting and therefore question of taking punitive action against officer does not arise.
- (c) The Ministry has taken several steps to ensure environmental safeguards due to mining of minerals, inter-alia, include mandating the requirement of prior environmental clearance under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time.

Trees in forests managed by State Forest Departments are felled as per the Working Plans approved by the Ministry, and their records are maintained by the State Forest Departments.
