

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 984**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

**Illegal deforestation in Tripura**

984. MS. SUSHMITADEV:

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

- (a) whether there is widespread illegal felling of trees in the State of Tripura, especially across the International Border with Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, the specific actions Government propose to take to prevent the logging and smuggling of the timber;
- (c) the details of raids conducted by the forest department to catch those responsible; and
- (d) whether a number of such raids have yielded no results?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of State Governments / Union Territory Administrations. There are strong legal frameworks for protection and management of forests including tree felling under various acts and rules such as Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and various state specific Acts and Rules. As per report received from the state of Tripura, the Indo-Bangla Border fencing has been erected covering the major section of the Border in the State, which has resulted in reduction in illegal felling of trees in border areas. However, there are sporadic incidences of illegal felling of trees, which are being addressed upon by conducting joint operation with BSF and other paramilitary forces.
- (b) to (d) As per report received from State of Tripura, to prevent illegal logging and smuggling of timber, Forest Department is conducting joint operation in various Forest Sub-Divisions with BSF, Police and other Paramilitary forces. In the financial year of 2022-23 up to October, 2022 a total seven joint operations have been conducted by Forest Department with BSF and Local Police at Kailashahar, Sonamura, Bishalgarh Sub Division. A total of 18.62 cum illegal timber has been seized from border area namely Dasharathbari, Madhucharan Para, Bijoynagar, Anandanagar, Kamalasagar, Kamthana from such joint operation. However, three othersuch operations have yielded no seizures/detection of offence.

\*\*\*