

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYASABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1331
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

1331. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Standing Committee of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) removed India from the Review of Significant Trade process for the Red Sanders;
- (b) if so, the extent to which this decision will help Red Sander farmers and to what extent it would help them earn more through cultivation and export without any legal hurdles; and;
- (c) the extent to which the above decision reduces illegal smuggling of Red Sanders?

ANSWER

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

- (a), (b) and (c) The Standing Committee of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES), during its 77th meeting recommended for removal of species/country combination, 'Red sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*)/India' from the 'Review of Significant Trade' process.

Government of India has encouraged States/UTs for promoting agroforestry with an aim to expand tree plantation in a complementary and integrated manner with crops and livestock to improve productivity, employment opportunities, income generation and livelihoods of rural households, especially the small farmers. Tree species like Red sanders, teak, etc, are promoted under agroforestry.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also carried out Non Detrimental Findings (NDF) in connection with harvest of Red sanders, which has recommended annual exportable quantity of Artificially Propagated Red sanders. Export of such red sanders, harvested from artificially propagated source helps in promoting livelihood of farmers. Inclusion of the species/country combination under Review of Significant Trade posed a threat of suspension of trade for this CITES listed species with India.

Red sanders is a species endemic to few Districts in Andhra Pradesh and listed in Appendix II of the CITES thereby regulating its international trade. The State of Andhra Pradesh besides declaring Red sanders as a protected species, has also declared Protected Areas for protection of such plants including Red sanders.
