

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2140
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2025

PROTECTION OF RED SANDERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

2140. SHRI GOLLA BABURAO:

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

- (a) whether the National Biodiversity Authority has sanctioned ₹ 1 crore to the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board to plant 1 lakh saplings of Red Sanders (*Terocarpus Santalinus*);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the efforts being made/steps being taken to protect and preserve Red Sanders in the State;
- (d) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there is huge smuggling of Red Sanders from the State; and
- (e) if so, efforts being taken to stop smuggling of this precious timber?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a), (b) and (c) The National Biodiversity Authority has released an amount of Rs. 2.00 crore to the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board for raising one lakh Red Sanders saplings during the period of three years spanning from 2024-2025 to 2026-2027.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken several steps towards protection and preservation of Red Sanders in the state such as promoting large-scale propagation, nursery development, and distribution of Red Sanders saplings as well as taking up Red Sanders regeneration and restoration activities through various departmental schemes. Additionally, community outreach and awareness programmes are organized to foster local participation in conservation efforts.

(d) and (e) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken several steps to stop smuggling of Red Sanders such as enhanced vigilance and protection measures across all Red Sanders bearing ranges; implementing intensified patrolling and coordinated enforcement drives to curb illegal felling and transport; ensuring active involvement of Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) in anti-smuggling and protection operations.

Further, the Government is taking stringent legal action under the Andhra Pradesh Forest Act, 1967, the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to ensure strong deterrence; prompt registration of Red Sanders smuggling offences and timely filing of charge sheets before the Special Red Sanders Court at Tirupati. Additionally, awareness programmes are

conducted through community meetings and media engagement to discourage local involvement in smuggling networks.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is also mandated for preventing the illegal wildlife trade including that of Red Sanders by collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence related to organized Wildlife Crime.
