

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1341
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

Protection of Red Sanders

1341. SHRI VIJAY CHINTAKAYALA:

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

- (a) the current status of Red Sanders smuggling in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and whether the State has shown improved performance in curbing such smuggling in recent years;
- (b) the details of Central assistance, including CAMPA funds, being extended to the State for protection of Red Sanders and conservation of its natural forests; and
- (c) whether the Ministry proposes to strengthen inter-State coordination, satellite-based surveillance and CITES-related monitoring mechanisms to further support the State's anti-smuggling efforts?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The States and Union Territories undertake protection, conservation and management of forests in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Central and State Acts, Rules and Regulations. As per the information received from the State of Andhra Pradesh, the State has recorded a decline in Red Sanders smuggling cases in recent years from 415 cases in 2022-23 to 138 in 2025-26.
- (b) This Ministry provides the financial assistance to the States / Union Territories under the Centrally sponsored scheme- Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat for protection, conservation and management of forest and wildlife and development of its habitat, as per the Annual plan of operations submitted by the concerned States and Union Territories. Further, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 provides for utilization of State CAMPA fund for measures for the protection of forest including Red Sanders using advance technology.
- (c) Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) is listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES). The international trade of Red Sanders is regulated through provision of CITES. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau monitors illegal trade in Red Sanders through intelligence gathering, analysis and coordination with the State Forest Departments, Customs, Police, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and other enforcement agencies.
