

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3207
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2017

Cutting and Smuggling of Red Sanders

3207. SHRI M.RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether cutting down and smuggling of Red sanders are prevalent in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether logs of red sanders have been seized in some States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the action taken by Government to check the aforesaid practice?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) As per information received from Government of Andhra Pradesh, instances of cutting and smuggling of Red Sanders in the districts of Kadapa, Chittoor, Nellore, Prakasham and Kurnool have been reported.

(b) & (c) The details of seizures of red sanders are given in **Annexure**.

(d) State Governments which are primarily responsible for the protection and Management of Forests take necessary action to tackle illegal felling/smuggling of trees as per the provisions of various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and various state specific rules & regulations thereof. Further, the State Governments take various other measures for protection of existing forests including survey demarcation, fencing, patrolling, setting of check posts, use of Information Communication Technology (ICT). Financial assistance is also provided under Central Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Intensification of Forest Management Scheme by the Government to supplement these protection efforts.

Some of the important initiatives taken by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for protection of Red Sanders include, *interalia*, setting up of Base Camps and Strike Forces,

setting up of Armed Mobile parties for patrolling, apprehending notorious smugglers and conducting raids, setting up of Dog Squads, formation of Red Sanders Anti –Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) and providing arms and mobility to forest staff. Further, Government of Andhra Pradesh has amended the Andhra Pradesh Forest Act vide Gazette Notification dated 19.05.2016. As per this amendment *interalia* red sanders have been given special status and punishment for forest offences have been enhanced.

In addition, Government of India through Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has taken a number of steps to prevent smuggling of Red Sanders. These include inspection of flora and fauna consignments at exit points to detect violations of provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) etc and sensitization of various agencies and trade regulation as per Export-Import (Exim) Policy.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3207 due for answer on 21.03.2017 regarding 'Cutting and Smuggling of Red Sanders'.

The details of seizure of red sanders in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years:-

Year	No. of cases	Red Sanders wood seized (in tons)	No. of Vehicles seized	No. of persons arrested
2011-12	1556	1437.179	985	2658
2012-13	1488	1389.583	1002	3139
2013-14	2058	1889.206	1566	4345
2014-15	1385	918.49	994	3952
2015-16	753	355.658	480	2587
2016-17 (As on 3.3.2017)	833	445.136	647	2976

The details of seizure of red sanders in Tamil Nadu during the last five years:-

Year	No. of cases detected	No. of accused arrested	Quantity of wood seized (in kilograms)
2011-12	23	28	100101
2012-13	43	53	331236
2013-14	100	134	128831
2014-15	136	136	87680.520
2015-16	66	26	45302.88
Total	368	377	693150.40

Region-wise details of cases of Smuggling of red sanders through exit points detected by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) during the last two years

Name of Regional Office of WCCB	Year 2015-16 (Cases in No.)	Year 2015-16 (Cases in No.)
Northern Region	85	63
Eastern Region	2	Nil
Southern Region	1	3
Western Region	6	Nil
Total	94	66