#### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

## LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3189 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.01.2018

#### Sandalwood Trees

### 3189. SHRI M.RAJA MOHAN REDDY: SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the number of sandalwood trees in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the large scale illegally cutting of sandalwood trees for the smuggling purposes; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard?

#### **ANSWER**

## MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA):

- (a) Information regarding number of sandalwood trees in the country is not compiled at the level of Ministry. However, in India, the total extent of sandalwood distribution is around 9000 Kilometer square, of which 8200 square kilometer is in the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The details of sandalwood distribution in the country including State of Andhra Pradesh are given in **Annexure.**
- (b) & (c) The Ministry has not received any report regarding large scale illegal cutting of sandalwood trees for smuggling purpose. However, sporadic incidents of sandalwood tree felling do take place, wherein, action is taken by the respective State/Union Territory Governments as per the extant laws, rules and regulations.

Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments. The various actions to protect forest including sandalwood tree are taken as per the provisions under various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, various rules made under these and State specific acts and rules.

Further to protect forest including sandalwood trees, various measures are taken by State/UT Forest Departments, such as survey and demarcation of forest areas construction of boundary pillars and check posts, use of modern technology (including wireless network, remote sensing, Geographical Information System, Information Technology, Global Positioning System), improved mobility of the field staff by providing vehicles for patrolling. Local communities are also encouraged and involved in conservation, protection and management of forests through Joint Forest Management Committees/ Village level committees.

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# Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3189 due for answer on 05.01.2018 regarding 'Sandalwood Trees'

#### Details of sandalwood distribution in the country.

(Area in Square kilometers)

	(Area in Square knometers					
Sl. No.	State	Area	Locations			
1	Karnataka	5245	Shimoga, Chikkamagalur, Coorg, Hassan, Mysore, Dharwad, Bangalore, Kolar, Belgaum, Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Bellary and Tumkur Districts			
2	Tamil Nadu	3040	Salem, Dharamapuri Erode, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, The Nilgris, Villupuram and to certain extent in Madurai, Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli Districts			
3	Kerala	15	Marayoor Range and to a limited extent in Arienkavu Range			
4	Andhra Pradesh	200	Anantapur, Chitoor and Cuddapah, Tirumala Hills and Paderu Forest Division of Arakku valley			
5	Odisha	25	Jeypore and Rayagada forest Divisions of Koraput district			
6	Madhya Pradesh	33	Forests of Seoni, Sagar, Sehore, Mandsour, Dewas, Guna and Rewa Forest Divisions			
7	Maharashtra	33	Districts of Ahmadnagar, Latur, Buldhana, Washim, Amravati, Osmanabad, Beed, Pune and Satara			
8	Rajasthan	Sparse	Some stands of Sandalwood population in Udaipur, Rajasmand, Chittorgary, Pratapagarh, Pali, Sirohi, Banswara, Dungarpur, Jhalwar Ajmer and Karoli Forest Divisions			