

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1298
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.06.2019

Illegal Cutting of Trees

1298. DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

- (a) whether incidence of illegal cutting of trees is on rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the response of the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard along with the results achieved?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) & (b) No Sir. Trees are felled for various development purposes with the permission of competent authorities in accordance with the procedure laid down in various Acts. Illegal felling of trees does occur sporadically and is dealt with according to extant Acts and Rules.

Forest survey of India, Dehradun an organization under this Ministry, carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report. As per India State of Forest Report 2017, there is an increase of 8, 021 sq km in the total forest and tree cover of the country, compared to the previous assessment in 2015. The total forest and tree cover is 24.39 per cent of the geographical area of the country.

- (c) Protection and management of forests and tree resources is primarily the responsibility of State /Union Territory Governments. There are strong legal frameworks for protection and management of forest resources of the country which include the National Forest Policy, 1988, Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and State Forest Acts, Tree Preservation Acts and Rules, etc. The State /UT Government take appropriate actions to protect forests and regulate felling of trees in accordance with the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules.
