

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1959
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

Illegal Cutting of Trees

1959. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has sought any report into the illegal cutting of trees worth crores of rupees in Kerala under the cover of a State Government order;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any report on the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a)to (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has sought report into alleged incidences of illegal cutting of trees in Kerala from Government of Kerala.
- (c)& (d) As per the report received from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Management), no trees were felled in reserved forest of Kerala. All such alleged tree felling took place in non forest land under private occupation. Government of Kerala has ordered for a high level investigation into this alleged illegal tree felling.

Protection and management of forests and tree resources outside forest is exclusively the responsibility of State Governments /Union Territory Administrations. The State Governments /UT Administrations take appropriate actions to regulate felling of trees in accordance with the provisions made under the respective Acts/ Rules applicable to the State/UT.
