

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 853
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2022

Illegal Mining in Elephant Reserve

853. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognisance of the illegal mining within the Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve in the Digboi forest division;
- (b) if so, the details of punitive action taken against the officials involved; and
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the environmental implications of such illegal mining on the elephant habitat and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a)&(b) As per the information received from the Government of Assam, the State has constituted a “One Man Enquiry Commission” headed by Justice B.P. Katakey, retired Judge of the Hon’ble Gauhati High Court in this regard and the commission has already submitted its report to the Government of Assam. The State Government of Assam has already initiated disciplinary proceedings against 10 Divisional Forest Officers, 5 Assistant Conservator of Forests and 4 Range Officers of Digboi Forest Division.
- (c) As per the information received from the State of Assam, Biodiversity Management Plan, Regional Wildlife Plan and Carrying Capacity Study report have been prepared through the Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat for safeguarding the wildlife particularly elephants in Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve.
