

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1106
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

Illegal Felling of Trees

1106. SHRI ANAND BHADAURIA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that illegal felling of trees is going on in various States including the State of Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the number of trees illegally cut down every year, if so, the details thereof, State-wise, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop illegal felling of trees?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c) Protection and management of forest and tree resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. There are legal frameworks for the protection and management of forest and tree resources of the country which include, the Indian Forest Act 1927, Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and the State Forest Acts, Tree Preservation Acts and Rules, etc. The State Governments /UT Administrations take appropriate actions to protect forests and trees under the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules. The instances regarding the illegal felling of trees as and when detected are cognized under the relevant Forest Acts and are proceeded against the offenders before the competent Court/competent Authorities. The particulars regarding the illegal felling of trees are maintained by concerned State Governments.

As per the report received from the State Forest Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, illegal felling in the forest area of the State is controlled by ensuring the protection of forest areas backed by the powers under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. In private areas and in other lands, the incidence of illegal felling of trees is checked and controlled under the provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Tree Protection Act, 1976.

The assessment of the trees involved in the illegal felling instances is carried out by the local forest authorities and the associated data are maintained in the relevant forest offense registers in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the concerned State Governments. As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2021 published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun; the forest cover and tree cover in the country have increased by 1,540 square kilometers and 721 square kilometers respectively, as compared

to the assessment published in ISFR-2019. There is an increase of 79.4 million tons of carbon stock as compared to the previous assessment published in 2019.

In order to stop the illegal felling of trees, State Governments are taking various measures such as regular patrolling in the forest areas by front-line forest staff to prevent occurrence of any illegal/prohibited activities, establishment of patrolling camps/anti-poaching camps, check posts at strategic and vulnerable locations, deployment of vigilance and flying squad parties, regular inspections in vulnerable areas, etc. Besides, State Forest Departments are also implementing Joint Forest Management programmes, awareness campaigns, educational programmes, etc., to secure the involvement of communities in forest protection activities.
