

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4199  
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002  
PROTECTION OF NATURAL FORESTS IN ANDAMANS  
SRINIVASULU KALAVA

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

the action taken to protect the natural forests of Andamans which are systematically being exploited by saw-mills in the islands?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

The Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/95 has issued various directions for conservation and protection of natural forest of Andaman & Nicobar Islands which, inter alia, include following:

- (a) Ban on felling of trees from the forest of Little Andaman, national parks, sanctuaries and tribal reserves. For other areas, revised working plans will be submitted to the Court.
- (b) No felling of trees shall be permitted for meeting any raw material requirement of the plywood, veneer, black board, match sticks or any other wood based industries.
- (c) The licenses of all the saw mills and wood-based industries shall not be renewed after 31st March, 2003. However, these units are permitted to exhaust the existing stock till 31st March, 2003. Henceforth, for meeting the local requirement only the Government saw mills shall operate.

In view of the above, there is no threat to natural forests of Andamans to be exploited by the saw mills.