

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:507

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005

THEFT OF WOOD

Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar;Solanki Shri Bhupendrasinh Prabhatsinh

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that theft of wood from many forests in the country is still continuing unabated ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether the Government has taken / proposes to take some measures to check it ; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a), (b), (c) and (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 507 due for reply on 02.05.2005 regarding Theft of Wood.

(a) and (b) : No, Sir. Though incidents of theft of wood (illicit felling of trees) do take place from time to time in different parts of the country, but these are not going on unabated. Over all there is an increasing trend in the forest cover of the country as reported in the State of Forest Report published by Forest Survey of India on a two year cycle.

(c)and (d) : The measures taken by the Government to check illicit felling of trees and theft of wood in the country are as under :

(i) Legal measures like Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act,1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Environment Protection Act,1986 and the rules, guidelines thereof.

(ii) Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans, Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management.

(iii) Financial measures like providing assistance to the States / Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Externally Aided Projects. Under the Centrally Sponsored scheme called `Integrated Forest Protection Scheme`, funds were provided to States and Union territories primarily for strengthening of Infrastructure for protection of forests from illicit fellings, fires, encroachments etc.

(iv) A network of protected areas has been established.