

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:207  
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006  
CUTTING OF SUNDARBANS FOREST  
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

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

(a) whether a large number of people are entering the protected forests of Sundarbans every day and are cutting and burning trees in order to get wild honey; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed/taken to check this trend?

**Answer**

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

(a) The State has informed that honey collection is a seasonal activity in the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, and only authorised permit holders are allowed to collect honey from the buffer area of the reserve during the period from April to June months.

(b) The safeguards taken by the State to check authorised honey collection are at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 207 REGARDING CUTTING OF SUNDARBANS FOREST DUE FOR REPLY ON 20-02-2006.

(i) All fishing permits are suspended during the honey collection period to ensure that no illegal smuggling of honey out of Sunderbans forest taken place.

(ii) All protection camps under Sunderbans Tiger Reserve intensify patrolling activity to check smuggling of honey and entry of unauthorised persons.

(iii) Special patrolling teams are also formed and placed at strategic locations to check entries of unauthorised person inside the forest area.