

section 3 of the Act. The amount to be released by the centre to the Districts/States in any financial year is based on the labour demand projected and utilisation of funds available, by the concerned State Governments.

Illegal deforestation in forest range at Nagpur

* 131. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that illegal deforestation is on the increase in the forest range falling under the Nagpur Division in Maharashtra;
- (b) the area of the forest which is being guarded by the forest guards;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that cutting of trees illegally every day in the Division has become a major concern for the forest department; and
- (d) the action Government is taking to stop cutting of trees illegally in the Nagpur Division and elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) No, illegal deforestation is not on increase in Nagpur Forest Division in Maharashtra State.

(b) At present, an area of 1727.58 sq. km. of forests is guarded by 273 forest beat guards.

(c) As per information provided by the Government of Maharashtra, there is no increase in the number of trees felled over the years and such it does not see illegal cutting as a major problems. The details of trees felled illegally and the material seized by the field staff are given in Statement (See below).

(d) To stop the illegal cutting of trees in Nagpur Division, various steps such as regular checking of beats, patrolling of forest areas by field staff and Special Reserve Police (SRP), checking of vehicles at Forest Nakas, Joint patrolling with other wings of forest department, etc., are being taken.

Statement

Details of trees felled illegally

Years	No of trees	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
2008	8,011	6.49
2009	7,491	6.14
2010	7,035	7.40
2011 (upto 30th June)	2,365	2.19