

जयराम रमेश  
JAIRAM RAMESH



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पर्यावरण एवं वन  
भारत सरकार  
नई दिल्ली-110003  
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI - 110 003

D.O. No.6-5/2011 WL

20<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Dear

I am writing this letter to bring to your kind notice a serious matter regarding the illegal felling of trees in Mansinghdeo Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra, which was notified on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010 under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

I had called for a report from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Maharashtra, from which it is learnt that there has been felling in the Sanctuary as well as in the buffer area of the Sanctuary purportedly as part of "Silvicultural operation". As per the report of the Managing Director, Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM), there has been illegal felling from the 1st to 12th December 2010 in approximately 100 ha of teak and 200 ha of bamboo area within the Sanctuary. Reportedly the Managing Director has instituted an enquiry to ascertain the facts of the issue as well as to fix responsibility.

Incidentally, the sanctuary is also acting as a buffer area to the Pench Tiger Reserve and, therefore, such felling activities would have an adverse impact on the habitat of tigers in this Tiger Reserve. The activities both inside the Sanctuary as well as in the buffer zone of the Tiger Reserve, therefore, need to be in consonance with the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and also the relevant orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court. May I, now, request you to look into the matter and issue necessary directions to the concerned officials to ensure that adequate protection is accorded to the Sanctuary and the buffer area of the adjoining Tiger Reserve, and that the laws and rules on the subject are followed in letter and spirit.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

(Jairam Ramesh)

Shri Prithviraj Chavan  
Chief Minister,  
Government of Maharashtra,  
Mumbai.