

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1101

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH MAY, 2015/VAISAKHA 16, 1937 (SAKA)

KILLING OF WOODCUTTERS ON A.P. – T.N. BORDER.

1101. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) : whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent killing of 20 wood-cutters hired by the suspected red sanders smugglers in the Seshachalam forests in Chittoor on the Andhra Pradesh - Tamil Nadu border, which has been a serious violation of human rights, as has been indicated by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC); and

(b) : if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b) : As per the report received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Red Sanders Anti Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF), while conducting combing operations at Seshachalam Reserve Forest area of Chandragiri Mandal on the intervening night of 6/7th April, 2015, noticed hundreds of people transporting the red sander logs. They encircled and attacked the task force personnel with stones and deadly weapons, who consequently opened fire in self defence resulting in the death of 20 persons and injuries to 11 Task Force staff.

The National Human Rights Commission on 07.04.2015 took suo-motu cognizance of the said incident. The Commission issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, calling for their response within two weeks. The Commission on 13.04.2015 also called for various reports including post-mortem reports, and magisterial enquiry report in respect of the incident. The case was also included for consideration during Camp Sitting held at Hyderabad during 22nd-24th April 2015. The Commission considered the submissions made by the representatives of the civil society and the State Government and further decided to send its own team for inquiry at the spot.
