

Largescale timber felling invites concern in Pasighat



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Maksam Tayeng 21 November 2017 7839 views

A stepped up felling of trees in the reserved forest areas in [Arunachal Pradesh](#) seems to posed a huge threat to the ecological health of the north eastern [state](#) forcing the authorities to ensure tight vigil to [deal](#) with the situation.

A circle of timber mafias has been remaining active in the jungles who keep felling many trees utilizing modern techniques and machineries on every passing day.

The massive tree felling goes unchecked in [Pasighat](#) reserved forest where hundreds of high demand trees, Hollock (*Terminalia myriocarpa*) have already been felled from Loki area.

Talking to Assam Times, Tadang Taga, ADCF who looks after the Central [Mobile](#) Squad under Chief Conservator of Forest, Central [Arunachal](#) circle, hundreds of felled trees were seized from Loki area on Friday.

He said, “The trees must have been mostly cut down during monsoon season taking the flood like situation in the riverine island. We could come across 100 stumps/butts within Loki areas, more such illegal felling must have been done in other areas.”

Taga who was accompanied by Range Officer, Ojing Jamoh, Beat officer, Moralali, T. Mize and others said the timber mafias have picked only the Hollock trees which have huge demand in the market.

He said the perpetrators have used power chain saw and push cart with motor bike wheels to cut down and transport the logs to river and transported it to their desired destination through rafting [Siang](#) River.

Range Officer, Pasighat Range, Jumgo Geyi said that, he and his men are trying hard to [stop](#) such felling despite the adverse condition during flood time.

“We have even made arrest on such cases during September 2015 at around 11.30 PM in the island/Patung areas and handed [over](#) the same offender to police at around 1 AM next morning. And several power chain saw machines were also seized from many people”, added Geyi.

Another officer, Obang Tayeng, RO Mebo also rued the same problem. He said that, there have lot of hurdles in tackling the illegalities despite which several arrests and seizures were done in recent time also. Due to lack of men and machineries the timber mafias takes advantage who are well equipped with modern equipment like Power

Chain Saw, JCBs, better trucks to do the illegal business. “

According to the forest officials, the easy availability of Power Chain Saw in the market need to be regulated by the [state](#) government, as these machines are reason behind massive tree felling in the [state](#) today.

If these machines are put under license category, it will be easier to tackle the [menace](#). The same stands in the case of [Air](#) Gun in restricting rampant killings of birds and squirrels, informed a forest officer.

Another reason behind demoralizing sincere officers and staffs like Tayeng and Geyi are lack of promotional scope and recognition as per the ground and real time performances.

In order to tackle such rampant felling of valued trees and to check massive deforestation here in the state of [Arunachal](#) Pradesh, the [state](#) government will require to come up with a strong law to check it.

Else, the [state](#) forest coverage which is rapidly decreasing leading to drying/disappearing ups of several streams, rivulets, rivers even to the extent of extinction of some plants and animal species will face more destruction in days to come, cautioned a forest officer.

Posting of more young male Forester, Forest Guard staffs in the Reserve areas, [Wildlife](#) Sanctuaries and [National](#) Parks will help tackling more such illegalities, as most of the women staffs stays away discharging duties in such places.

In this connection, Lok Sabha MP, Ninong Ering, said that, he had informed about such illegal operations in the Liki areas to DFO (T), Tabang Jamoh and SP, [Pasighat](#) Pranav Tayal. "No steps were taken to arrest and [stop](#) the illegalities on time during the monsoon, it is useless to make hue & cry at this hour when it's too late", added Ering.

Maksam Tayeng

BY MAKSAM TAYENG

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