

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 45**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021

**Encroachment in forest area**

45. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that rampant encroachment in forest area happens in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken to ban encroachment in the forest area;
- (d) whether Government has extended many relaxations in recent years in the nearby forest areas for infrastructure development; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

- (a) to (b) As per the information received from States/UTs, the State/UT wise details of the forest area under encroachment in the country are given in **Annexure-I**.
- (c) Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT. The various actions to remove encroachment are taken as per the provisions under various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, various rules made under these Acts and State specific Acts and Rules.  
Further, to prevent encroachment, various measures are taken by the State Forest Departments such as setting up of check posts, barriers, use of modern technology (that includes wireless network, remote sensing, Geographical Information System, Information Technology, Global Positioning System and Differential Global Positioning System), improved mobility of field staff by providing vehicles for patrolling, survey and demarcation of forest areas and construction of boundary pillars. Local communities are also involved in conservation, protection and management of forest through Joint Forest Management.
- (d) & (e) No, Sir. No approval is given without following the procedure, rules and guidelines made under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

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**ANNEXURE-I**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO PART (a) to (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 45 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.07.2021 REGARDING ENCROACHMENT IN FOREST AREA ASKED BY SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of States/UTs</b>	<b>Area under Encroachment (in ha)</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	34,358.33
2	Bihar	132.21
3	Chhattisgarh	7,645.84
4	Gujarat	292.83
5	Goa	Nil
6	Haryana	1,027.30
7	Himachal Pradesh	6,252.00
8	Jharkhand	26,496.00
9	Jammu & Kashmir	10,279.28
10	Karnataka	83,092.06
11	Kerala	5,024.53
12	Madhya Pradesh	54,1731.28
13	Maharashtra	61,270.35
14	Odisha	33,154.19
15	Punjab	6,700.60
16	Rajasthan	10,839.76
17	Tamil Nadu	15,593.64
18	Telangana	3,056.00
19	Uttar Pradesh	12,397.55
20	Uttarakhand	10,649.11
21	West Bengal	10,214.80
22	Arunachal Pradesh	53,450.43
23	Assam	36,3142.20
24	Manipur	2,213.82
25	Meghalaya	9,747.19
26	Mizoram	10,852.80
27	Nagaland	2,638.11
28	Sikkim	2,817.21
29	Tripura	6.77
30	A & N Islands	3,887.72
31	Chandigarh	14.00
32	D&N Haveli	0.08
33	Daman & Diu	87.83
34	Lakshadweep	Nil
35	Delhi	384.38
36	Puducherry	Nil