

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 532
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

Encroachment of forest land in Uttarakhand

532. SHRI NARESH BANSAL:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that State Governments have been directed to summarily evict encroachers of forest land, specially in Uttarakhand, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the quantum of forest land under encroachment at present along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of encroachment removed from forest during the last two years, State/UT-wise, especially in Uttarakhand?

ANSWER

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

(a) Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT Governments which take appropriate actions to remove encroachment under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made there under, and also under State Specific Acts and Rules.

Further, in order to prevent encroachment, various measures are taken by the State Forest Departments, including survey and demarcation of forest areas, construction of boundary pillars, regular patrolling by field staff etc. The State Forest Departments also use a range of modern technology such as Geographical Information System, Remote sensing and Global Positioning Systems to monitor forest boundaries from encroachments. The Joint Forest Management committees and village levels involving local communities in forest protection, conservation and management of forests.

(b) As per the information received from State/ UT Governments, the State/UTs-wise details of forest land under encroachment are given in **Annexure-I**.

(c) As per the information received from State/ UT Governments the details of area evicted including Uttarakhand during the last two years are given in **Annexure-II**.

Annexure referred to part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no. 532 due for reply on 07.12.2023 regarding “Encroachment of forest land in Uttarakhand”

Forest land under encroachment

S. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Area under Encroachment (in ha)
1	Andhra Pradesh	25211.11
2	Assam	340748
3	Arunachal Pradesh	53450.43
4	Bihar	74.01
5	Chhattisgarh	7645.84
6	Gujarat	25.24
7	Goa	Nil
8	Haryana	1316.44
9	Himachal Pradesh	6252.00
10	Jharkhand	304.57
11	Jammu & Kashmir	19809.65
12	Karnataka	76196.64
13	Kerala	5024.54
14	Madhya Pradesh	54173.28
15	Maharashtra	228.81
16	Manipur	2213.82
17	Meghalaya	9816.31
18	Mizoram	10707.91
19	Nagaland	25.89
20	Odisha	33154.19
21	Punjab	10312.98
22	Rajasthan	13939.99
23	Sikkim	632.79
24	Tripura	3621.80
25	Tamil Nadu	15010.71
26	Telangana	2004.48
27	Uttar Pradesh	27325.17
28	Uttarakhand	11814.47
29	West Bengal	10214.80
30	A & N Islands	3851.24
31	Chandigarh	0.66
32	D&N Haveli	31.22
33	Daman & Diu	87.83
34	Lakshadweep	Nil
35	Delhi	364.94
36	Puducherry	Nil
37	Ladakh	01.00

Annexure referred to part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no. 532 due for reply on 07.12.2023 regarding “Encroachment of forest land in Uttarakhand”

Details of encroachments evicted in forest area during the last two years

Sl.No	Name of State	Area (in ha)
1	Meghalaya	21.396
2	Karnataka	23.08
3	Assam	6266.5
4	Delhi	26.093
5	J&K	1102.3
6	Punjab	45.94
7	Uttarakhand	1294.92
8	Nagaland	25.89
9	Haryana	568.353
