

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3266
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.08.2025

Forest area under encroachment

3266. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether huge area of forest land are under encroachment in various States and Union Territories;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the name of State or Union Territory having the highest forest encroachment;
- (c) the details of the forest areas from which encroachment has been removed;
- (d) whether implementation of forest rights act, 2006 has been plagued by violations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) to (e) The protection and management of forests and wildlife areas is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration. The State/Union Territory authorities are empowered to take action against encroachment of forest areas under the Indian Forest Act 1927, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the State Forest Acts/Rules as applicable. The details regarding encroachment on forest lands and removal of encroachment as reported by the States/Union Territories are given in the **Annexure**.

The implementation of various provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

This Ministry has issued advisories to State Governments/UT Administrations to remove encroachments on forest lands as per the provisions of the law and to ensure that further encroachments do not occur. Further, in order to prevent encroachments, various measures are taken by the State Forest Departments, which include survey and demarcation of forest areas, fixing of pillars along forest boundary and regular patrolling by field staff. The State Forest Departments also use a range of modern technologies such as Geographical Information System, Remote sensing and Global Positioning System to check encroachments in the forest areas. The Joint Forest Management committees have also been established at village levels involving local communities for protection, conservation and management of forests.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in the reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no. 3266 due for answer on 21.08.2025 regarding Forest area under encroachment asked by Shri Pramod Tiwari:

Details of forest area under encroachment and removal of encroachment from forest area

S. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Area of forest land under Encroachment as reported by the State/UT as on 31.03.2024 (in ha)	Area of Encroachment removal from forest area as reported by the State/UT as on 31.03.2024 (in ha)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13318.16	0
2.	Assam	362082.62	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	53499.96	0
4.	Chhattisgarh	16891.22	2446.534
5.	Gujarat	13008.119	12784.75
6.	Jharkhand	20040.47	6808.81
7.	Kerala	4975.52	0
8.	Maharashtra	57554.87	244.72
9.	Odisha	40507.56	4814.56
10.	Punjab	7567.42	0
11.	Chandigarh	0.66	0
12.	Tripura	4242.37	205.99
13.	Tamil Nadu	15768.48	0
14.	Uttarakhand	4992.43	0
15.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3742.08	0
16.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	88.77	0
17.	Sikkim	469.16	0
18.	Lakshadweep	0	0
19.	Puducherry	0	0
20.	Goa	0	0
21.	Karnataka	86308.44	11196.64
22.	Uttar Pradesh	26497.45	0
23.	Madhya Pradesh	546089.45	17496.54
24.	Mizoram	24772.96	0
25.	Manipur	3270.20	0
26.	West Bengal	9000.16	288.608