

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *289
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2016

Encroachment on Forest Land

*289. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of encroachment on forest land in various parts of the country including Jharkhand and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the likely impact of such encroachment on the environment;
- (c) whether the Forest Departments of certain States including Jharkhand have identified additional forest land in their respective States and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to remove all the encroachment from forest land in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

- (a) to (d) The Statement is laid on the table of the house.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PART (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *289 DUE FOR REPLY ON 06.12.2016 REGARDING ENCROACHMENT ON FOREST LAND ASKED BY SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

- (a) As per the information provided by the State/UT Governments, the forest area under encroachment including Jharkhand is 14,839 Sq kms. The State/UT-wise details are given in Annexure-I. The sporadic cases of encroachment on forest land take place on account of various biotic pressures.
- (b) Encroachment of forest land leads to conversion of forest areas into non-forest areas, thus impacts flow of various ecosystem services from these areas.
- (c) & (d) Protection and Management of Forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments. 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 and State specific acts and rules.

Further to prevent fresh encroachments various measures are taken by State Forest Departments, such as survey and demarcation of forest areas, construction of boundary pillars, and check posts, use of modern technology (that includes wireless network, remote sensing, Geographical Information System, Information Technology, Global Positioning System), improved mobility to the field staff by providing vehicles for patrolling. Local communities are also encouraged and involved in conservation, protection and management of forests through Joint Forest Management Committees/ Village level committees.

ANNEXURE-I

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *289
DUE FOR REPLY ON 06.12.2016 REGARDING ENCROACHMENT ON FOREST LAND
ASKED BY SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY**

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	Area of Encroachment (in ha.)	As on Date
1	Andhra Pradesh	1690.72	31.03.2016
2	Bihar	132.21	31.03.2015
3	Chhattisgarh	19330.64	31.01.2016
4	Gujarat	34791.00	19.03.2011
5	Goa	Nil	25.02.2013
6	Haryana	520	31.03.2016
7	Himachal Pradesh	2339.02	31.03.2016
8	Jharkhand	27360.21	31.07.2012
9	Jammu & Kashmir	14345.02	13.02.2014
10	Karnataka	187372	31.03.2016
11	Kerala	56.43	31.03.2016
12	Madhya Pradesh	534717.28	31.03.2016
13	Maharashtra	67012.56	31.03.2016
14	Odisha	78505.08	22.07.2011
15	Punjab	6987.31	31.03.2015
16	Rajasthan	9003.91	31.12.2015
17	Tamil Nadu	15142	16.07.2014
18	Telangana	27775.64	31.03.2016
19	Uttar Pradesh	23869.50	29.02.2016
20	Uttarakhand	9646.37	22.03.2016
21	West Bengal	13779.49	31.03.2015
22	Arunachal Pradesh	58636.13	31.03.2016
23	Assam	317215.39	17.03.2015
24	Manipur	1356.80	31.03.2016
25	Meghalaya	9378.00	12.03.2011
26	Mizoram	9589.48	31.03.2016
27	Nagaland	8721.86	26.07.2011
28	Sikkim	2817.21	31.03.2016
29	Tripura	6.77	08.08.2014
30	A & N Islands	479.57	31.03.2016
31	Chandigarh	14.00	31.03.2016
32	D&N Haveli	614.40	31.03.2013
33	Daman & Diu	87.83	28.09.2010
34	Lakshadweep	Nil	28.08.2010
35	Delhi	629.51	11.04.2012
36	Puducherry	Nil	21.10.2010
	TOTAL	1483923.34	