

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2680
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2017

Illegal Cultivation on Forest Land

2680. SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the illegal cultivation due to encroachment on forest lands in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding illegal cultivation on forest lands;
- (c) if so, the details of such complaints during each of the last three years, Statewise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check this trend in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

- (a) to (c) Management and protection of forest area is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT Governments and action is taken to prevent /remove encroachment as per the existing rules and regulations by respective State/UT Governments. As per the reports received from States/UTs, the details of the forest area under encroachment are given in Annexure. No specific information/complaint regarding illegal cultivation due to encroachment on huge tracts of forest land has been received in the Ministry. However, some States/UTs have reported that the encroached areas in the forests are also being used for cultivation.
- (d) Action is taken by the concerned State/UT Governments to prevent/ evict encroachments as per the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wild Life Protection Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and the Acts and Rules of various State/UT Governments. This Ministry provides financial assistance to State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including the 'Intensification of Forest Management Scheme' (IFMS), for activities like strengthening of infrastructure viz. check posts, buildings for frontline staff, use of modern technology that includes wireless network, Remote Sensing, Geographical Information System, Information Technology, Global Positioning System (GPS) and improved mobility to the field staff by providing vehicles for patrolling, survey and demarcation of forest areas including digitization of recorded forest areas and construction of boundary pillars etc.

In addition to above, the State/UT Governments take various steps for protection of the forest areas which include patrolling of forest areas, strengthening of the check posts/barriers, use of modern information technology for control of forest offences, demarcation of forest areas and digitization of the recorded forest areas, involvement of local Communities/ Joint Forest Management Committees in preventing encroachment on forest land.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2680 BY SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN REGARDING "ILLEGAL CULTIVATION ON FOREST LAND" DUE FOR REPLY ON 01.08.2017**

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	520.00	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	75826.76	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	15142.00	16.07.2014
18	Telangana	3056.00	31.03.2017
19	Uttar Pradesh	23954.41	31.03.2017
20	Uttarakhand	9619.80	30.06.2016
21	West Bengal	10214.80	31.03.2016
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	1344152.11	