

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 332
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2017

Area of Forest Land

332. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

- (a) the details of the total area of land reserved for forests in the State of Maharashtra, area-wise;
- (b) the number of people illegally residing on the forest land for several years, area-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is formulating/has formulated any policy to allot pattas to these people for construction of houses and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, whether the Government is likely to evict these people from the forest land along with the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As per the India State of Forest Report, 2015, published by Forest Survey of India, the extent of Reserved Forests in Maharashtra State is 49, 546 sq. km. and the total forest area in the State is 61, 579 sq. km.
- (b) As reported by Government of Maharashtra, at the end of March 2017, an area of 622.944 sq.km. of forest land is under illegal occupation in 97, 488 cases. The details of circle-wise no. of cases and area under encroachment are given in Annexure.
- (c) As per the Guidelines under Forest (Conservation) act, 1980, construction of houses in Forest land is not permitted. However, as per the provisions contained u/s 3(i) (a) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, claims for “right to hold and live in the forest land under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self-cultivation for livelihood by a member or members of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dwellers” if approved by District Level Committee, are being considered for such habitations.
- (d) In the event of any forest land found to be under illegal occupation or forest right claim for the same land under Forest Rights Act, 2006, has not been considered by the District Level Committee, the same is treated as encroachment and the encroachers become liable for eviction.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 332 DUE FOR REPLY ON 18.07.2017 REGARDING AREA OF FORST LAND ASKED BY DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

S.No.	Name of Circle	No of cases	Area under Encroachment (in ha.)
1.	Chandarpur	6186	5828.467
2.	Gadchiroli	8969	10299.208
3.	Nagpur	3573	2808.951
4.	Amravati	1488	848.368
5.	Yavatmal	2072	2525.226
6.	Aurangabad	4034	6868.42
7.	Nashik	9598	3845.484
8.	Dhule	15076	20757.254
9.	Thane	35406	666.05
10.	Pune	1445	195.293
11.	Kolhapur	2094	162.273
12.	Nagpur/W	2843	2445.595
13.	Mumbai/W	4704	5043.832
Total		97488	62294.421
