

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.\*6**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2018

**Encroachment in National Parks**

\*6. PROF. SAUGATA ROY:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken note of the encroachments in various National Parks/ Sanctuaries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether some State Governments have requested to reduce the area of the notified sanctuaries, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether any State Government is reluctant to evict the encroachers from the notified areas of the sanctuaries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b),(c),(d) AND (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*6 REGARDING “ENCROACHMENT IN NATIONAL PARKS” RAISED BY PROF. SAUGATA ROY DUE FOR REPLY ON 02.02.2018.**

(a)and(b) There have been reports regarding encroachments in National Parks and Wildlife sanctuaries in the country from time to time. However, the details of such cases are not collated in the Ministry. Management of Protected Areas is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments.

(c) During the last three years proposal for rationalisation of boundaries involving reduction of area of Wildlife Sanctuaries have been received from the following States:

S.No	Name of State	Area proposed to be denotifying
1	Maharashtra	Rationalisation of boundary of Maldhok Bird Sanctuary involving reduction from 1229.24 sq.km to 366.26 sqkm.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Boundary alteration of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary involving reduction of contour +5 ft to + 3ft and exemption of private lands from sanctuary.

The above proposals were considered by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL). The Committee recommended the proposal of Maharashtra. However, the proposal of Andhra Pradesh was referred back to the State Government.

(d)and (e) No report indicating reluctance of State Governments to evict the encroachers from the notified areas of the sanctuaries has been received in the Ministry. Under Section 34A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, officers not below the rank of an Assistant Conservator of Forests of the Governments are empowered to evict any unauthorised persons/ constructions from the Wildlife Sanctuary. Further, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes ‘Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats’, ‘Project Tiger’ and ‘Project Elephant’, the Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments for undertaking various activities in Protected Areas including those aimed at the prevention of encroachments.

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