

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1764
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2018

Encroachment in National Parks/Sanctuaries

1764. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
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 encroachments by private parties in various National Parks/Sanctuaries, State/UT-wise including Himachal Pradesh ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not conducting a thorough survey to protect the land from encroachments;
- (d) whether some State Governments have not taken action against encroachers and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether any steps have been taken to increase the area under these parks or sanctuaries and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a),(b)and (c) 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.
- (d) The State/UT Governments are fully empowered to evict the encroachers under Section 34A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The respective State/UT Governments including Government of Himachal Pradesh are taking action against the encroachers.
- (e) The Ministry had received proposals for rationalisation of boundaries involving increasing area of Wildlife Sanctuaries/National Parks from Karnataka (Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary), West Bengal (Buxa Tiger Reserve) and Chhattishgarh (Indravati Tiger Reserve) which were considered by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) and recommended.
Further, as per the available information, the Government of West Bengal has increased the area of Neora Valley National Park from 88 sqkm to 159.89 sqkm in 2013.
