

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2876
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2018

Forest Land

2876. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

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

- (a) the region-wise total area of land reserved for forest land in various States/UTs of the country including Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any assessment regarding illegal occupation/encroachment of the said land for years and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether State Governments have also been directed by the Union Government to take any action in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to free such land from encroachment?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) As per India State of Forest Report-2017 published by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, the total Recorded Forest Area (RFA) of the country is 7,67,419 square kilometers as per **Annexure**.

(c), (d) & (e) Forests are managed by State Forest Departments as per the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and various local Acts which include provisions for protection of forest from encroachment. The State Forest Departments are responsible for ensuring that forest areas are not encroached upon and encroachment, if any, are removed immediately as per the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and various local Acts of respective State/UT Governments and the rules and regulations made thereunder. State Government are competent to take appropriate action under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act 1927 and other local Acts to prevent and remove encroachments on forest land, if any. No report regarding illegal occupation / encroachment of forest land has been received in the Ministry during 2018

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2876 due for answer on 03.08.2018 regarding 'Forest Land'

Recorded Forest Areas (RFAs) in States and UTs as per ISFR-2017.

(Area in sq km)

State/ UT	Geographical Area (GA)	RFA (as revised by SFDs)			Total RFA (2017)	% of GA
		RF	PF	Unclassed Forests		
Andhra Pradesh	162968	31,959	5069	230	37258	22.86
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	10,589	9,779	31,039	51,407	61.39
Assam	78,438	17,864	0	8,968	26,832	34.21
Bihar	94163	693	6183	1	6877	7.30
Chhattisgarh	135192	25,782	24036	9954	59772	44.21
Delhi	1,483	78	24	0	102	6.88
Goa	3,702	253	0	972	1225	33.09
Gujarat	196,244	14,373	2886	4388	21647	11.03
Haryana	44,212	249	1158	152	1559	3.53
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	1,898	33130	2005	37033	66.52
Jammu & Kashmir	222,236	17,643	2551	36	20230	9.10
Jharkhand	79,716	4,387	19185	33	23605	29.61
Karnataka	191,791	28,690	3931	5663	38284	19.96
Kerala	38,852	11,309	0	0	11309	29.11
Madhya Pradesh	308,252	61,886	31098	1705	94689	30.72
Maharashtra	307,713	49,546	6733	5300	61579	20.01
Manipur	22,327	1,467	4,171	11,780	17,418	78.01
Meghalaya	22,429	1,113	12	8,371	9,496	42.34
Mizoram	21,081	4,483	0	1,158	5,641	26.76
Nagaland	16,579	234	0	8,389	8,623	52.01
Odisha	155,707	36049	25133	22	61204	39.31
Punjab	50,362	44	1137	1903	3084	6.12
Rajasthan	342,239	12475	18217	2045	32737	9.57
Sikkim	7,096	5452	389	0	5,841	82.31
Tamil Nadu	130,060	20293	1782	802	22877	17.59
Telangana	112,077	20353	5939	612	26904	24.00
Tripura	10,486	4175	2	2,117	6,294	60.02
Uttar Pradesh	240,928	12071	1157	3354	16582	6.88
Uttarakhand	53,483	26547	9885	1568	38000	71.05
West Bengal	88,752	7054	3772	1053	11879	13.38
A&N Islands	8,249	5613	1558	0	7171	86.93
Chandigarh	114	32	0	3	35	30.70
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	199	5	0	204	41.55
Daman & Diu	111	0	0	8	8	7.21
Lakshadweep	30	0	0	0	0	0.00
Puducherry	490	0	2	11	13	2.65
Total	32,87,469	4,34,705	2,19,432	1,13,881	7,67,419	23.34