

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2493
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023

Encroachment on Forest Land

2493. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

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

- (a) the details of the total land reserved for forest in the country, States/UT-wise including State of Rajasthan;
- (b) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding encroachment on the said land over the years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to remove encroachment along with the directions issued to the State Governments in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2021, the total Recorded Forest Area in the Country is 7,75,288 square kilometre. The States and Union Territories wise details including the State of Rajasthan are given in **Annexure-I**.

(b) & (c) As per the information received from State/ UT Governments, the State/UTs-wise details of forest land under encroachment are given in **Annexure-II**.

(d) Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT Governments which take appropriate actions to remove encroachment under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made there under, and also under State Specific Acts and Rules.

This Ministry issues advisories to State Governments/UT Administrations to remove encroachments on forest lands as per the provisions of law and to ensure that further encroachments do not occur. In order to prevent encroachments, various measures are taken by the State Forest Departments, including survey and demarcation of forest areas, construction of boundary pillars, regular patrolling by field staff etc. The State Forest Departments also use a range of modern technology such as Geographical Information System, Remote sensing and Global Positioning Systems to monitor forest boundaries from encroachments. Joint Forest Management committees have also been established at village levels involving local communities for protection, conservation and management of forests.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 2493 due for reply on 18.12.2023 regarding "Encroachment on Forest Land"

Area of Recorded Forest (RF), Reserve forest (RF), Protected Forest (PF) and Un-classed Forest in States and UTs as per ISFR 2021.

(in sq km)

Sl. No.	State/ UT		Geographical Area (GA)	RFA (in different categories)			Total RFA (2021)	% of GA
				Reserve Forest	Protected Forest	Unclassed Forests*		
1.	Andhra Pradesh		162,968	31,959	5,069	230	37,258	22.86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		83,743	12,371	11,857	27,312	51,540	61.55
3.	Assam		78,438	17,864	0	8,972	26,836	34.21
4.	Bihar		94,163	693	6,183	566	7,442	7.90
5.	Chhattisgarh		135,192	25,897	24,036	9,883	59,816	44.25
6.	Delhi		1,483	78	25	0	103	6.95
7.	Goa		3,702	119	755	397	1,271	34.33
8.	Gujarat		196,244	14,574	2,898	4,398	21,870	11.14
9.	Haryana		44,212	249	1,158	152	1,559	3.53
10.	Himachal Pradesh		55,673	1,883	28,887	7,178	37,948	68.16
11.	Jharkhand		79,716	4,500	18,922	1,696	25,118	31.51
12.	Karnataka		191,791	28,690	3,931	5,663	38,284	19.96
13.	Kerala		38,852	11,522	0	0	11,522	29.66
14.	Madhya Pradesh		3,08,252	61,886	31,098	1,705	94,689	30.72
15.	Maharashtra		3,07,713	50,865	6,433	4,654	61,952	20.13
16.	Manipur		22,327	984	3,254	13,180	17,418	78.01
17.	Meghalaya		22,429	1,113	12	8,371	9,496	42.34
18.	Mizoram		21,081	4,499	1,823	1,157	7,479	35.48
19.	Nagaland		16,579	234	0	8,389	8,623	52.01
20.	Odisha		1,55,707	36,049	25,133	22	61,204	39.31
21.	Punjab		50,362	44	1,137	1,903	3,084	6.12
22.	Rajasthan		342,239	12,176	18,543	2,144	32,863	9.60
23.	Sikkim		7,096	5,452	389	0	5,841	82.31
24.	Tamil Nadu		130,060	20,523	1,053	1,612	23,188	17.83
25.	Telangana		112,077	25,800	1,592	296	27,688	24.70
26.	Tripura		10,486	3,588	2	2,704	6,294	60.02
27.	Uttar Pradesh**		2,40,928	11,560	296	5,528	17,384	7.22
28.	Uttarakhand		53,483	26,547	9,885	1,568	38,000	71.05
29.	West Bengal		88,752	7,054	3,772	1,053	11,879	13.38
30.	A & N Islands		8,249	5,613	1,558	0	7,171	86.93
31.	Chandigarh		114	32	0	3	35	30.70
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu		602	203	5	6	214	35.55
33.	Jammu & Kashmir	Shapefile Area*** (54,624)	2,22,236	17,648	2,551	0	20,199	36.98
34.	Ladakh	Shapefile Area*** (1,68,055)		7	0	0	7	0.00
35.	Lakshadweep		30	0	0	0	0	0.00
36.	Puducherry		490	0	2	11	13	2.65
Total			32,87,469	4,42,276	2,12,259	1,20,753	7,75,288	23.58

* Unclassed Forest includes all forest other than Reserve Forest and Protected Forest as reported by State/UTs Forest Departments.

** In case of Uttar Pradesh, the RFA excludes 9,662.764 km of linear plantations along Road, Railway line and Canal.

*** Area of shape file provided by Survey of India (August, 2021). Notified geographical areas for individual UTs from SOI are awaited.

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to part (b) & (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 2493 due for reply on 18.12.2023 regarding “Encroachment on Forest Land”

Forest land under encroachment

S. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Area under Encroachment (in ha)
1	Andhra Pradesh	25211.11
2	Assam	340748
3	Arunachal Pradesh	53450.43
4	Bihar	74.01
5	Chhattisgarh	7645.84
6	Gujarat	25.24
7	Goa	Nil
8	Haryana	1316.44
9	Himachal Pradesh	6252.00
10	Jharkhand	304.57
11	Jammu & Kashmir	19809.65
12	Karnataka	76196.64
13	Kerala	5024.54
14	Madhya Pradesh	54173.28
15	Maharashtra	228.81
16	Manipur	2213.82
17	Meghalaya	9816.31
18	Mizoram	10707.91
19	Nagaland	25.89
20	Odisha	38209.39
21	Punjab	10312.98
22	Rajasthan	13939.99
23	Sikkim	632.79
24	Tripura	3621.80
25	Tamil Nadu	15010.71
26	Telangana	2004.48
27	Uttar Pradesh	27325.17
28	Uttarakhand	11814.47
29	West Bengal	10214.80
30	A & N Islands	3851.24
31	Chandigarh	0.66
32	D&N Haveli	31.22
33	Daman & Diu	87.83
34	Lakshadweep	Nil
35	Delhi	364.94
36	Puducherry	Nil
37	Ladakh	01.00
