

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 94
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023

Illegal Encroachment of Forest Lands

94. SHRI S. MUNISWAMY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the ruthless action of the Forest Department officials of the State Government of Karnataka with the farmers of the Srinivaspur Taluka from Kolar District in Karnataka in the name of illegal encroachment of forest lands;
- (b) whether the Government intends to intervene in the matter considering it a Center-State matter;
- (c) whether the Government plans to rescue the huge number of farmers of Kolar district in Karnataka whose crops have been destroyed without taking into cognizance the valid papers they have with regards to the land holdings and the tilling rights; and
- (d) whether the Government is planning any compensation to the losses incurred by the said farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c) As per the report received from State Government of Karnataka, forest offence cases in Srinivaspur Taluka of Kolar District were booked against encroachers for illegal occupation of forest land in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Karnataka Forest Act 1963. Further as reported, the State Forest Department had initiated proceedings against the encroachers of forest land by issuing notices under Section 64 (A) of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963. As per the report the encroachers were evicted from the forest land as per the provisions of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963, after following due procedure.

(d) Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of the State and 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.
