

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1047
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.11.2019

Survey of the Forest

1047. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to conduct satellite survey of the forests to point out encroachment on forests lands across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the said plan?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) & (b) As per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 109/2008, Forest Survey of India (FSI), an organization under the Ministry is carrying out satellite based analysis to find out any encroachment on rejected claims under the Forest Right Act, 2006 on the polygons submitted by the nodal agencies of the States/Union Territories (UTs). This survey is not applicable to other forest areas where claims under Forest Right Act, 2006 have not been rejected. 14,259 rejected polygons submitted by the nodal agencies have been analysed.
- (c) The responsibility of protection of forests including prevention of encroachments lies primarily with the respective State/UT Governments. The Indian Forest Act 1927, State specific Forest Acts and Rules empower the State/UT Governments to prevent encroachment of forest land in the respective States/UTs. The State/UT Governments will act upon the encroachments, thus reported under the above-said satellite based analysis.
