

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 37
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021

Encroachment on Wildlife Sancturaries and Protected Areas

37. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

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

- (a) the total area of land reserved for forest in each State/UT of the country including Rajasthan;
- (b) whether the Union Government has done any assessment with regard to illegal encroachment being done on the said land for years and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the illegal encroachment and whether the States have also been instructed to take any sort of action in this regard;
- (d) whether there has been any increase in the cases related to encroachment in wildlife sanctuaries and protected areas across the country;
- (e) whether the Government is concerned about the encroachment on wildlife sanctuaries and protected areas and if so, the year/location-wise details of cases related to encroachment including the action taken thereon and laws enacted in this regard; and
- (f) the manner in which the implementation of such laws is being ensured?

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), 2019, the total Recorded Forest Area in the Country is 7,67,419 square kilometer. The State/Union Territory (UT) wise details including Rajasthan are given in **Annexure-1**.
- (b) As per the information available in the Ministry, the State/UT wise details of the forest area under encroachment in the country are given in **Annexure-2**.
- (c) to (f) The protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT. The Ministry has written to State Governments/UT Administrations to remove encroachment as per the existing Acts/Rules and to ensure that no further encroachment takes place. In order to prevent and control encroachments, the States and UTs also take various measures such as demarcation and digitization of forest boundaries, strengthening infrastructure for forest protection, involving fringe area forest communities through Joint Forest Management Committees, Eco Development Committees etc.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides financial assistance to the States/UTs for protection and development of Protected Areas including measures aimed at prevention of encroachment.

The Ministry has not received any reports from the States/UT's indicating that there has been an increase in cases related to encroachment in wildlife sanctuaries and Protected Areas across the country.

ANNEXURE-1

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 37 due for reply on 29.11.2021 regarding “Encroachment on Wildlife Sancturaries And Protected Areas”.

Recorded Forest Areas in States/UTs as per ISFR-2019

(Area in square kilometre)

S.No.	State/ UT	Geographical Area (GA)	Recorded Forest Areas (RFA)			Total RFA (2019)
			Reserved Forests	Protected Forests	Unclassed Forests	
1	Andhra Pradesh	162,968	31,959	5,069	230	37,258
2	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	10,589	9,779	31,039	51,407
3	Assam	78,438	17,864	0	8,968	26,832
4	Bihar	94,163	693	6,183	1	6,877
5	Chhattisgarh	135,192	25,782	24,036	9,954	59,772
6	Delhi	1,483	78	24	0	102
7	Goa	3,702	253	0	972	1,225
8	Gujarat	196,244	14,373	2,886	4,388	21,647
9	Haryana	44,212	249	1,158	152	1,559
10	Himachal Pradesh	55,673	1,898	33,130	2,005	37,033
11	Jammu & Kashmir*	222,236	17,643	2,551	36	20,230
12	Jharkhand	79,716	4,387	19,185	33	23,605
13	Karnataka	191,791	28,690	3,931	5,663	38,284
14	Kerala	38,852	11,309	0	0	11,309
15	Madhya Pradesh	308,252	61,886	31,098	1,705	94,689
16	Maharashtra	307,713	49,546	6,733	5,300	61,579
17	Manipur	22,327	1,467	4,171	11,780	17,418
18	Meghalaya	22,429	1,113	12	8,371	9,496
19	Mizoram	21,081	4,483	0	1,158	5,641
20	Nagaland	16,579	234	0	8,389	8,623
21	Odisha	155,707	36,049	25,133	22	61,204
22	Punjab	50,362	44	1,137	1,903	3,084
23	Rajasthan	342,239	12,475	18,217	2,045	32,737
24	Sikkim	7,096	5,452	389	0	5,841
25	Tamil Nadu	130,060	20,293	1,782	802	22,877
26	Telangana	112,077	20,353	5,939	612	26,904
27	Tripura	10,486	4,175	2	2,117	6,294
28	Uttar Pradesh	240,928	12,071	1,157	3,354	16,582
29	Uttarakhand	53,483	26,547	9,885	1,568	38,000
30	West Bengal	88,752	7,054	3,772	1,053	11,879
31	A&N Islands	8,249	5,613	1,558	0	7,171
32	Chandigarh	114	32	0	3	35
33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	199	5	0	204
34	Daman & Diu	111	0	0	8	8
35	Lakshadweep	30	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	490	0	2	11	13

S.No.	State/ UT	Geographical Area (GA)	Recorded Forest Areas (RFA)			Total RFA (2019)
			Reserved Forests	Protected Forests	Unclassed Forests	
	Total	3,287,469	434,853	218,924	113,642	767,419

Source: State/UT Forest Departments

* Includes Jammu & Kashmir area outside LoC that is under illegal occupation of Pakistan and China.

ANNEXURE-2

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 37 due for reply on 29.11.2021 regarding “Encroachment on Wildlife Sancturaries And Protected Areas”.

Details on forest area under encroachment

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	Area under Encroachment (in ha)
1	Andhra Pradesh	34,358.33
2	Bihar	132.21
3	Chhattisgarh	7,645.84
4	Gujarat	292.83
5	Goa	Nil
6	Haryana	1,027.30
7	Himachal Pradesh	6,252.00
8	Jharkhand	26,496.00
9	Jammu & Kashmir	10,279.28
10	Karnataka	83,092.06
11	Kerala	5,024.53
12	Madhya Pradesh	54,1731.28
13	Maharashtra	61,270.35
14	Odisha	33,154.19
15	Punjab	6,700.60
16	Rajasthan	10,839.76
17	Tamil Nadu	15,593.64
18	Telangana	3,056.00
19	Uttar Pradesh	12,397.55
20	Uttarakhand	10,649.11
21	West Bengal	10,214.80
22	Arunachal Pradesh	53,450.43
23	Assam	36,3142.20
24	Manipur	2,213.82
25	Meghalaya	9,747.19
26	Mizoram	10,852.80
27	Nagaland	2,638.11
28	Sikkim	2,817.21
29	Tripura	6.77
30	A & N Islands	3,887.72
31	Chandigarh	14.00
32	D&N Haveli	0.08
33	Daman & Diu	87.83
34	Lakshadweep	Nil
35	Delhi	384.38
36	Puducherry	Nil
