

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2014
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2022

Illegal Encroachment of Forest Land

2014. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIK RAO GAWALI:
SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:

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/Union Territory of the country including Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding illegal encroachment being committed over the said land for years and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for removing illegal encroachment and whether the States have also been instructed to take action in this regard;
- (d) whether there has been any increase in the cases of encroachment reported in wild life sanctuaries and protected areas across the country;
- (e) whether the Government is concerned about encroachment of wild reserves and protected areas; and
- (f) if so, the year/place-wise details of the cases related to encroachment and the action taken thereon?

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 State and Union Territories wise details including the State of Maharashtra are given at Annexure-I.
- (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-II.
- (c)to(f) Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT. The various actions to remove encroachment are taken as per the provisions under various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, various rules made under these Acts and State specific Acts and Rules.

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 referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2014 due for answer on 14.03.2022 regarding 'Illegal Encroachment of Forest Land'

Recorded Forest Areas (RFA) in States/UTs as per ISFR-2021

(Area in square kilometre)

Sl. No.	State/ UT		Geographical Area (GA)	RFA (in different categories)			Total RFA (2021)
				Reserved Forest	Protected Forest	Unclassed Forests*	
1.	Andhra Pradesh		1,62,968	31,959	5,069	230	37,258
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		83,743	12,371	11,857	27,312	51,540
3.	Assam		78,438	17,864	0	8,972	26,836
4.	Bihar		94,163	693	6,183	566	7,442
5.	Chhattisgarh		1,35,192	25,897	24,036	9,883	59,816
6.	Delhi		1,483	78	25	0	103
7.	Goa		3,702	119	755	397	1,271
8.	Gujarat		196,244	14,574	2,898	4,398	21,870
9.	Haryana		44,212	249	1,158	152	1,559
10.	Himachal Pradesh		55,673	1,883	28,887	7,178	37,948
11.	Jharkhand		79,716	4,500	18,922	1,696	25,118
12.	Karnataka		191,791	28,690	3,931	5,663	38,284
13.	Kerala		38,852	11,522	0	0	11,522
14.	Madhya Pradesh		3,08,252	61,886	31,098	1,705	94,689
15.	Maharashtra		3,07,713	50,865	6,433	4,654	61,952
16.	Manipur		22,327	984	3,254	13,180	17,418
17.	Meghalaya		22,429	1,113	12	8,371	9,496
18.	Mizoram		21,081	4,499	1,823	1,157	7,479
19.	Nagaland		16,579	234	0	8,389	8,623
20.	Odisha		1,55,707	36,049	25,133	22	61,204
21.	Punjab		50,362	44	1,137	1,903	3,084
22.	Rajasthan		3,42,239	12,176	18,543	2,144	32,863
23.	Sikkim		7,096	5,452	389	0	5,841
24.	Tamil Nadu		1,30,060	20,523	1,053	1,612	23,188
25.	Telangana		1,12,077	25,800	1,592	296	27,688
26.	Tripura		10,486	3,588	2	2,704	6,294
27.	Uttar Pradesh**		2,40,928	11,560	296	5,528	17,384
28.	Uttarakhand		53,483	26,547	9,885	1,568	38,000
29.	West Bengal		88,752	7,054	3,772	1,053	11,879
30.	A & N Islands		8,249	5,613	1,558	0	7,171
31.	Chandigarh		114	32	0	3	35
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu		602	203	5	6	214
33.	Jammu & Kashmir	Shape file Area*** (54,624)	2,22,236	17,648	2,551	0	20,199
34.	Ladakh	Shape file Area*** (1,68,055)		7	0	0	7
35.	Lakshadweep		30	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry		490	0	2	11	13
Total			32,87,469	4,42,276	2,12,259	1,20,753	7,75,288

Source: State/UTs Forest Departments

*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) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2014
DUE FOR REPLY ON 14.03.2022 REGARDING Illegal Encroachment of Forest Land**

S.No.	Name of the State/UTs	Area under Encroachment (in ha)
1	Andhra Pradesh	34358.33
2	Assam	377532.63
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	29048.50
11	Jammu & Kashmir	16512.39
12	Karnataka	407.09
13	Kerala	5024.54
14	Madhya Pradesh	54173.28
15	Maharashtra	228.81
16	Manipur	2213.82
17	Meghalaya	9747.19
18	Mizoram	10852.80
19	Nagaland	25.89
20	Odisha	33154.19
21	Punjab	9008.08
22	Rajasthan	13939.99
23	Sikkim	2817.21
24	Tripura	3621.80
25	Tamil Nadu	15010.71
26	Telangana	2004.48
27	Uttar Pradesh	27325.17
28	Uttarakhand	10649.11
29	West Bengal	10214.80
30	A & N Islands	3851.24
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
37	Ladakh	01.00
