

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 33
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

Encroachment of Forest Land

33. SMT. MANJU SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any information from various States of the country about encroachment of forest land;
- (b) if so, the details of forest area under encroachment in the country, State and UT-wise;
- (c) the details of steps taken by the Government to remove the said encroachment;
- (d) the details of provisions made by the Government to prevent encroachment of forest land; and
- (e) the status of implementation of the provisions by the States and the reaction of the Government thereto in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) and (b) The details of encroachment in forest area are maintained by the respective State Government/UT Administration and the report in this regard is submitted to the Ministry. The States/UTs which reported the details of forest land under encroachment are given in the **Annexure**.

(c) to (e) The Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration. To prevent the encroachment, appropriate legal provisions are there in the Indian Forest Act 1927, the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Local Forest Acts/Rules.

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

Annexure referred to part (a) and (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 33 due for reply on 03.02.2025 regarding “Encroachment of Forest Land”

Forest land under encroachment

S. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Area of forest land under Encroachment as reported by the State/UT as on 31.03.2024 (in ha)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13318.16
2.	Assam	213253.91
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	53499.96
4.	Chhattisgarh	16891.225
5.	Gujarat	13008.119
6.	Jharkhand	20040.47
7.	Kerala	4975.52
8.	Maharashtra	57554.87
9.	Odisha	40507.56
10.	Punjab	7567.42
11.	Tripura	4242.37
12.	Tamil Nadu	15768.48
13.	Uttarakhand	4992.43
14.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3742.08
15.	D&N Haveli	39.78
16.	Daman & Diu	48.99
17.	Sikkim	469.16
18.	Lakshadweep	0
19.	Puducherry	0
