

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 987**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

**Functioning of Hotels in Wildlife Areas**

987. DR. MANNA LAL RAWAT:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the cases of functioning of hotels in reserved forest areas in the country including the State of Rajasthan without getting permission from National Wildlife Board;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of wildlife sanctuaries/parks;
- (c) whether any information have been received in respect of involvement of any individual in the illegally construction of hotel in the said cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the proposed action to be taken by the Government against such illegally constructed/operated hotel owners?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) to (e) The protection and conservation of forest and wildlife is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. As per Section 33 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Chief Wild Life Warden is the authority to control, manage and protect all Sanctuaries and National Parks. In accordance with proviso to section 33(a) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, no commercial tourist lodge or hotel can be constructed inside a Sanctuary or a National Park without prior approval of the National Board for Wild Life.

The details of functioning of hotels and involvement of any individual in the illegal construction of such hotels in reserved forest areas, Sanctuaries or National Parks in the country is not collated at the level of the Ministry.

The Chief Wild Life Warden or the authorised officer in the State are empowered under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for entry, search, arrest and detention of any person involved in committing an offence.

As per section 34A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, an officer not below the rank of an Assistant Conservator of Forests is empowered to evict any person

from a Sanctuary or a National Park, who unauthorisedly occupies Government land and remove any unauthorised structures, buildings, or constructions erected therein.

The Chief Wild Life Warden, or any other authorised officer are empowered to initiate proceedings and file complaints in courts against those who have committed offences under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

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