

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2721
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2026

Encroachment on Forest Land

2721.SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:

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

- (a) whether illegal cultivation is increasing due to the encroachment of large tracts of forest land in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding illegal cultivation on forest land;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent illegal cultivation on forest land in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) 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. The State Governments /UT Administrations take appropriate actions to protect forest and tree resources and address illegal cultivation under the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules. As and when any complaint related to illegal cultivation on forest land is received in the Ministry, it is examined and thereafter forwarded to the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration for taking necessary action as per the extant rules and regulations.

The 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.