

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2866
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2003
USE AND SALE OF FOREST LAND
A.F. GOLAM OSMANI;ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain State Governments have urged the Union Government to change its policy on the sale of forest land still legally defined as forest;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the forest land in various States is being illegally sold/encroached upon;
- (d) if so, the details and facts thereof;
- (e) whether any clear cut policy on the use and sale of forest land would be announced; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

- (a) No Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) There are no reports of illegal selling of forest land from any State. As far as encroachment on forest land is concerned, about 13.5 lakh hectare forest land is under encroachment in the country according to information received from various State/Union Territory Governments.
- (d) State-wise details including encroached area is given in Annexure.
- (e) & (f) Forests of the country are to be managed to conserve the environment of the nation and to meet the bonafide needs of the society in accordance with the provisions enunciated in National Forest Policy, 1988. Forests are managed scientifically according to the Working Plans of the State. There is no policy for other use and sale of forest land except permission granted for non-forestry use of the forest lands for development projects under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2866 BY SHI SHYAMA SINGH, SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI & SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY REGARDING "USE AND SALE OF FOREST DUE FOR REPLY ON 11-8-2003.

Sl. No. Name of State Area under Encroachment in hectare

1	Andhra Pradesh	341322.0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4038.0
3	Assam	254711.0
4	Bihar	2177.0
5	Chhattisgarh	150495.0
6	Delhi	NA
7	Goa	1012.0
8	Gujarat	5484.0
9	Haryana	852.0
10	Himachal Pradesh	1493.0
11	J & K	15406.0
12	Jharkhand	33905.0
13	Karnataka	109000.0
14	Kerala	45970.0
15	Madhya Pradesh	72811.0
16	Maharashtra	93610.0
17	Manipur	0.3
18	Meghalaya	15464.0

19 Mizoram	13.0
20 Nagaland	0.0
21 Orissa	75696.0
22 Punjab	4409.0
23 Rajasthan	17584.0.0
24 Sikkim	12000.0
25 Tamilnadu	18283.0
26 Tripura	41927.0
27 Uttaranchal	10400.0
28 Uttar Pradesh	25210.0
29 West Bengal	NA
30 A & N Islands	4651.0
31 Chandigarh	NA
32 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	NA
33 Daman & Diu	NA
34 Lakshadweep	NA
35 Pondicherry	NA

Total 1357923.3

NA - NOT AVAILABLE