

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1271  
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000  
ENCROACHMENT OF FOREST LAND  
NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

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

- (a) the total area of forest land under encroachment in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of encroachers and since when they have encroached upon such forest land;
- (c) whether the decision of the Government to regularise such encroachments is going to affect the total availability of forest land; and
- (d) if so, the facts thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) & (b) The subject forest being in the concurrent list, the role of the Central Government is more related to the policy issues whereas the responsibility of its actual management and protection vests with the State Governments. Encroachment on forest land is an issue being dealt by the State Forest departments. As such the data on the extent of encroachments are not compiled and collated in the Ministry.

(c) & (d) As per the Guidelines & Rules framed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, a provision exists for regularisation of pre-1980 encroachments where the State Government had taken a decision before enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, to regularise encroachments of eligible category as per the certain criteria evolved by the State Government in accordance with local needs and conditions but could not implement their decision before the commencement of the Act.

Regularisation of such encroachments definitely affect the total availability of forest land. However, to compensate for the loss, Ministry generally stipulates condition of compensatory afforestation preferably on equivalent non-forest land and in case of its unavailability, over degraded forest land.