

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2163

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2005

ENCROACHMENT OF FOREST LAND

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Jha Shri Raghunath;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Pateriya Smt. Neeta

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

- (a) whether there has been an alarming increase in the cases of encroachment on forest land in the country;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of area/percentage of encroached forest land and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether certain laws permit the usage of forest land for other purposes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the existing laws are required to be amended to check the encroachment; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)&(b) As per information received from various States/Union Territories (UTs) as on 31-3-2004, about 13.43 lakh hectare of forest land in the country is under encroachments. The State-wise details are given in the Annexure. Encroachment on forest land is an offence under Section 26 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and, therefore, it is required to be evicted. However, in September 1990, Central Government issued guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 which enabled Central Government and the State / UT Governments to regularize pre-1980 eligible encroachments as a one time dispensation with the condition that all post-1980 encroachers will be evicted. Even with the dispensation for regularization of pre-1980 eligible encroachments, Central Government observed that the encroachments on forest lands were on the increase. Therefore, in pursuance of Supreme Court's Order, Central Government on 3rd May 2002, directed all the State / UT Governments to evict the in-eligible encroachers from forest lands in a time bound manner. As per reports received from various States/UTs, encroachments have been cleared from about 1.52 lakh hectare of forest land.

(c)&(d) Regulated use of forest land for non-forestry purposes is permitted under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for development projects like power generation (hydro-power, thermal, gas, and wind), irrigation, construction of roads, railway lines, transmission lines, drinking water supply projects, village electricity, schools, hospitals etc. To mitigate the ill effects arising out of such diversion, compensatory afforestation and other necessary measures are undertaken at the project cost.

(e)&(f) No Sir. The existing provisions under Indian Forest Act, 1927, and the State Forest Acts for the time being in force, are adequate to deal with the problems of encroachment on forest lands.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2163 RAISED BY SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR, SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA, SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN AND SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA REGARDING 'ENCROACHMENT OF FOREST LAND', DUE FOR REPLY ON 08-08-2005.

STATE-WISE ENCROACHMENT ON FOREST LANDS AND THEIR EVICTION SINCE MAY, 2002 (As on 31-3-2004)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Encroachment on forest lands till May, 2002 (in hectare)	Evicted from forest lands since 2002 (in hectare)	Existing encroachment on forest lands as on 31-3-2004 (in hectare)
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1	Andhra Pradesh	295383.000	0.000	295383.000
2	Assam	371450.000	71740.000	299710.000
3	Arunachal Pr.	4038.000	150.190	3887.810
4	A & N Island	4637.890	2580.400	2057.490
5	Bihar	854.181	602.313	251.869
6	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000	0.000
7	Chhattisgarh	150495.000	0.000	150495.000

8	Delhi	0.000	0.000	0.000
9	Daman & Diu	87.960	0.000	87.960
10	D & N Haveli	614.350	0.000	614.350
11	Gujarat	36556.400	14416.860	22139.540
12	Goa	1012.000	0.000	1012.000
13	Haryana	2147.900	873.840	1274.060
14	Himachal Pr.	2925.999	84.124	2841.875
15	J & K	11090.000	1806.000	9284.000
16	Jharkhand	50177.800	1739.390	48438.410
17	Karnataka	87658.000	19948.000	67710.000
18	Kerala	9473.000	2183.000	7290.000
19	Lakshdweep	0.000	0.000	0.000
20	Maharashtra	93199.390	13557.660	79641.730
21	Manipur	535.990	2.750	533.240
22	Meghalaya	6584.490	0.000	6584.490
23	Madhya Pradesh	146182.225	8071.640	138110.585
24	Mizoram	18759.616	0.000	18759.616
25	Nagaland	0.000	0.000	0.000
26	Orissa	45068.964	2463.434	42605.530
27	Punjab	7233.573	420.767	6812.806
28	Pondicherry	0.000	0.000	0.000
29	Rajasthan	15073.154	8360.412	6712.742
30	Sikkim	3550.090	50.450	3499.640
31	Tamilnadu	19253.848	1698.284	17555.564
32	Tripura	59336.150	0.000	59336.150
33	Uttaranchal	9948.800	280.800	9668.000
34	Uttar Pradesh	27576.530	361.900	27214.630
35	West Bengal	14842.432	1007.896	13834.536

Total 1495746.732 152400.110 1343346.622