

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:231

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008

ENCROACHMENT ON FOREST LAND IN KAWAL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

(a) whether the Government has come to know about illegal entry, encroachment, felling of trees and poaching in the Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government against the guilty persons and to check and prevent further destruction of the forest area in the region;

(d) whether the Government proposes to appoint a High Level Central team to look into and report on the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a)&(b) Yes Sir. As per the information received from the State Government, attempts of encroachment and felling of trees have been made over an area of 399 ha in Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh during July 2007 to October 2007. A total number of 13246 trees have been felled by the encroachers. However, no incidents of poaching have been reported during the period.

(c) The steps taken by the State Government to combat the encroachment are as under:

1. Fifty-three offence cases have been booked and 420 persons arrested and remanded to judicial custody.
2. District Administration and Police Force have been involved to prevent the destruction of forests.
3. Local tribals have been engaged as protection watchers for the protection of the forests.
4. Awareness campaigns have been organized for sensitizing the villagers about the need for the protecting forest and wildlife.
5. Vehicular movement is restricted from 9 00 PM to 6 00 AM in the Sanctuary.

(d) No Sir. There is no such proposal.

(e) Does not arise.