

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2081

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

ENCROACHMENT ON FOREST LAND

Sharma Shri Madan Lal;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

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

- (a) whether a large portion of forest land of the country has been encroached upon;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the people who have made such encroachment;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to regularize the encroachments in violation of decision of the Supreme Court;
- (d) if so, the area of land encroached upon which the Government proposes to regularise;and
- (e) the likely impact of Government's action on other such decisions given by the Supreme Court in this regard and on forests and environment?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): As on 31st December 2009, the forest area under encroachment in the country was 17,94,879 hectare as reported by the State/UT Governments. The State/UT wise break-up is annexed. The information on details of the people, who have encroached upon forest area, are not maintained in this Ministry.

(c) to (e): There is no proposal to regularize the encroachments in violation of the decision of the Supreme Court. However, proposals of the State/UT Governments, submitted after obtaining the approval of the Supreme Court, are considered for regularization by the Central Government under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.