

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3968

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010

ENCROACHMENTS IN NATIONAL PARKS AND SANCTUARIES

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

- (a) whether instances of encroachments of the national parks and sanctuaries by various mafia groups have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent of encroachment at present in each State/UT, national park and wild life sanctuary-wise;
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and
- (e) the success achieved in removing such encroachments?

Answer

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

(a),(b)&(c) There have been reports of encroachments in some of the Protected Areas in the country from time to time. As per information available in the Ministry, the details of encroachments in National Parks in India till 2007 are at Annexure.

(d)&(e) Management of Protected Areas is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/ UT Governments. Encroachments in Protected Areas are prohibited under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and as per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court issued from time to time. The Central Government have also issued detailed guidelines to all the States/UT Governments for eviction of all encroachments from the forest lands. Moreover, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes- Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger & project Elephant, the Government of India provides technical & financial assistance to the Protected Areas for various activities including those aimed at the prevention of encroachments.