

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4641

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010

SEPARATE FORCE FOR FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

Bwiswmuthiary Shri Sansuma Khunggur

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to raise a separate Forest and Environment Protection Force on the pattern of CISF at the national level for the better protection of forest and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is aware that the application of the "Scheduled Tribes' and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers' Rights over the Forest Lands Act, 2006" in the North-Eastern Region with special mention to Autonomous District Council areas including Bodoland Territorial Districts in Assam has resulted in unwanted indulgence in illegal encroachments by other non-indigenous, non-scheduled tribes and outsiders;

(e) if so, the steps taken so far by the Government to address this issue; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) As of now there is no proposal to raise a separate Forest and Environment Protection Force on the pattern of CISF at the national level for the better protection of forest and environment.

(d) As reported by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Section 3 of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 specifies the forest rights of the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers on all forest lands which are recognized under the Act. This Section inter alia also includes the rights which are recognized under any State law or laws of any Autonomous District Council or Autonomous Regional Council or which are accepted as rights of tribals under any traditional or customary law of the concerned tribes of any State, vide Section 3(1)(j) of the Act. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not received any information that the application of this Section of the Act has resulted in unwanted indulgence in illegal encroachments by other non-indigenous, non-scheduled tribes and outsiders in the North-Eastern Region of the country.

(e) & (f) In view of the above reply to part (d) of the question, these questions do not arise.