

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:159  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011  
WILD LIFE SANCTUARIES IN NORTH EAST  
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

- (a) the number of national parks/wild life sanctuaries in existence in the North-East;
- (b) whether the Supreme Court has banned cutting of trees in the North-East;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that inspite of the ban on cutting of trees in the North-East villages have been set up inside the sanctuaries in the region, particularly the Sonai Rupai Wild Life Sanctuary;
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the extent of reduction of the Sonai Rupai Wild Life Sanctuary because of encroachments; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d),(e) AND (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 159 REGARDING 'WILD LIFE SANCTUARIES IN NORTH-EAST' BY SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI DUE FOR REPLY ON 07.03.2011.

(a) The details of number of national parks/wild life sanctuaries in existence in the North East are at Annexure.

(b)&(c) The Supreme Court vide order dated 12.12.1996 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 has ordered that felling of trees inside forest areas should be carried out only in accordance with the working plans approved by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In respect of plantations, the Supreme Court has ordered that felling of trees should be carried out in accordance with the approved working schemes. There is, however, no ban on felling of trees in the North-East.

(d)&(e) The Ministry has not received any reports about setting up of villages in the Wildlife Sanctuaries in the North-East, after notification of such wildlife sanctuaries. In respect of Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary of Assam, no new village is reported to have been set up but an area of approximately 85 sq. km. is reported to be under encroachment.

(f) Management of the National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. Regular protection work and patrolling duty is being performed by the staff of the Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary to prevent any new encroachment and illegal felling of trees inside the Sanctuary. Instances of encroachment in a wildlife sanctuary and other Protected Areas are dealt with under the relevant provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.