

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1653

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

ENCROACHMENT IN NATIONAL ANIMAL PARKS

Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the National Animal Parks are being encroached by the neighbouring villages in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has received any such reports of encroachment from various States in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps 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),(b)&(c) Yes, Sir. There have been reports regarding encroachments of National Parks in the country from time to time. However, such details are generally not compiled at the level of Central Government.

(d) 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 under the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court issued from time to time. The Central Government has also issued advisories to the State/UT Governments for eviction of the encroachments from the forest lands. Moreover, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and '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.