

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1660  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011  
ENCROACHMENT IN FOREST LAND  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the forest land has been encroached in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) 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) As per information collected from the 16 States/Union territories, about 8.34 lakhs hectare of forestland has been encroached upon by the people living in and around such forest lands. However, about 3.58 lakhs hectare of Forest land has been regularized by granting title deeds in favour of tribals and other traditional forest dwellers under the provision of the Scheduled tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006. The State –wise details are given in annexure.

(c) The protection of forest areas is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments under the relevant provisions of various Central/State Acts, rules, Regulation, etc. However, this Ministry provides financial assistance to the State Forest Departments under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Intensification of Forest Management' to strengthen their forest protection machinery by way of infrastructure development, use of modern technology, improved mobility by way of deployment of new field vehicles improved communication and providing arms ammunition to the front-line forestry force.