

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1102
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011
ENCROACHMENT ON FORESTLAND
Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

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

- (a) whether the forestland has been encroached upon on large scale in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof State-wise/UT-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure to remove this encroachment and recover the forestland?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) The State-wise details of forest land under encroachment is given in annexure.

(c) The protection of forest areas is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State /Union Territory Governments under the relevant provisions of various Central/State Acts, Rules and Regulations. 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 communication and providing arms ammunition to the front-line forestry force. This infrastructural support provided to all State/UT Governments help them in demarcation of forest with boundary pillar, enhances the patrolling capabilities of frontline staff and strengthens efforts for eviction of forest land encroachers. Other efforts being made by various State Governments for removing encroachment includes delegation of powers of Collectors to Divisional Forest officers (DFOs) under Public Premises and Land Recovery Act, constitution of special eviction squads with the help of Police and Revenue departments, and expediting the cases of forest encroachments under trials in various Courts, etc.