

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:624

ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009

EARLY DISPOSAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL CASES

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

- (a) Whether a large number of environment and forest related cases in the country are pending in the courts resulting in frustrating the objectives of environmental laws;
- (b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise, and;
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for disposal of these cases expeditiously?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Environment and Forests related cases are cross-cutting and Inter-sectoral in nature. Hence, it is natural that the cases related to violations of environment and forest laws are pending in various courts. However, it will not be correct to say that pendency of such cases in courts is resulting in frustrating the objectives of environmental laws. The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and NCT of Delhi have set-up designated courts to deal with environment related cases. As per the suggestion of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, some of the High Courts like Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Gujarat have constituted Green Benches for dealing with environment and forests related cases.