

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:625

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012

ENCROACHMENTS ON NATIONAL PARKS

Choudhary Shri Harish;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether the reports regarding encroachments of National Parks in the country have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the agencies or persons found involved in the said illegal occupations; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to get the said illegally occupied National Parks vacated?

Answer

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

(a),(b), (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. There have been reports regarding encroachments of National Parks in the country from time to time. However, the details of such cases are generally not compiled at the level of Central Government.

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 Wild Life (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 and financial assistance to the State Governments for undertaking various activities in Protected Areas including those aimed at the prevention of encroachments.