

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2940  
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014  
ENCROACHMENT ON FOREST LAND  
Ahmed Shri Sultan

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

- (a) whether the instances of gradual increase in the encroachment on forest land have been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total area under encroachment and evicted from encroachment in the country, at present, State-wise along with the steps taken to stop encroachments on forest land;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to regularise the encroachment on land in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS ( Dr. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a)& (b) No reports regarding gradual increase in encroachment on forest land in the country have been received. However, there are sporadic reports of encroachment on forest land in the country. States/UTs take action for eviction of encroachment on forest land. Further action is also taken as per law against encroachers of forest land. The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides Grants-in-aid to States/UTs under Intensification of Forest Management Scheme with the aim of supplementing the efforts of the States/Union Territories for forest protection. Funds under the scheme are utilized for patrolling of the forests, establishment of camps, building fire watch towers, creation and maintenance of fire lines, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening of forest infrastructure etc. State/UT- wise details of forest land under encroachment and eviction are annexed.

(c)& (d) Guidelines have been issued by the Ministry under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 to consider proposals from State Government for regularization of encroachments subsisting pre- 1980, where the State Government had taken a decision before the enactment of Forest (conservation) Act 1980, to regularize categories of encroachments.