

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1153
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015
FOREST AREA IN CHHATTISGARH
Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

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

- (a) the notified forest area in Chhattisgarh State;
- (b) the details of measures being taken for development, augmentation and conservation of forest area in the State;
- (c) whether mass scale encroachments and mining activities in the forest area of the State is causing damage to the environment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether cutting of forest by the Members of the Security Committee has also been reported; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and steps taken/ likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) As per the information provided by Chhattisgarh State Forest department, the notified forest area in Chhattisgarh State is 59,772.40 square kilometer.

(b) Activities for development, augmentation and conservation of forest area are taken up as per the sanctioned Working Plans under the State Plan Budget. Besides this the development works are also taken up in the forest areas under various schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS) and funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), State Medicinal Plant Board and 13th Finance Commission etc.

(c) & (d) As per the information provided by Chhattisgarh State Forest department, no mass scale cases of encroachment and mining activities have been reported in the forest area. Sporadic cases of encroachment reported in last 3 years are as under:-

Year	No. of cases	Area affected (in Ha)
2011-12	818	1515.80
2012-13	389	273.31
2013-14	1461	1260.254

(e) & (f) As per the information provided by Chhattisgarh State Forest department, no such case has been reported so far.