

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2593  
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015  
ENCROACHMENTS ON LAND  
Singh Shri Bhola

**Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the land of Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats is being encroached upon at large scale in various States of the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has conducted any survey regarding encroachments on the land of Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government has prepared any action plan to remove the said encroachments; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) to (c). No information in this regard is maintained at the Union Government level as Panchayats being the State Subject, the powers regulating the functioning of Panchayats in the matters raised in the Question vest with the concerned State Governments.

(d) and (e). No action plan is required to be prepared by the Union Government to remove the said encroachments in view of Article 243G of the Constitution. Article 243G read with the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution stipulates that States may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be required to enable the latter to function as institutions of self-government. Such laws may also provide for the devolution of the powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats for preparation of plans and implementation of the schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them, including those in relation to the 29 matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.