

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3302
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015
ILLEGAL ENCROACHMENT OF FOREST LAND
Biswas Shri Radheshyam

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about illegal encroachment on forest land in the State of Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether around 52,800 hectares of forest area had been allegedly encroached by Nagaland anti-social groups across the Nagaland-Assam Border, till date; and
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to vacate the encroached lands and also to stop encroachment of the forest land in the country including Assam?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the report received from the Government of Assam, 3,172.15 Sq Km forest area is under encroachment.

(c) & (d) As per the report received from the Government of Assam, these areas are under encroachment since long. The boundary between the State of Assam and Nagaland has been defined in the State of Nagaland Act, 1962, read in consonance with the Naga Hills Tuensang Area Act, 1957 and Govt. Notification no. 3102/R; dated 25/11 /1925. Further, the interstate border of Assam-Nagaland is disputed and the matter is within the purview of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Moreover as per the bilateral agreement between the Chief Ministers of the two states, status-quo is being maintained in the disputed border area of Assam and Nagaland, therefore, no eviction could be done in those Reserved Forest areas. Protection and Management of Forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government. The action to remove encroachment is taken by respective State/Union Territory Governments as per the provisions of various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and relevant State Acts & Regulations. The Ministry supplements the efforts of the States in protection and management of forests through Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Intensification of Forest Management Scheme.