

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1900

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014

FOREST ENCROACHMENTS

Mahajan Smt. Poonam ;Tasa Shri Kamakhya Prasad

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

- (a) whether there is large scale encroachments of forest land in various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to remove the encroachment from the forest area/land, State- wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No reports regarding large scale encroachment on forest land in the country have been received. However, there are sporadic reports of encroachment on forest land in the country, details of which are not compiled at the level of the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change and the same are maintained by the State/Union Territory Governments.

(c) Protection and Management of Forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government and hence the action to remove encroachment is taken as per the provisions of various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and various rules & regulations thereof. The information on action taken for removal of encroachments by the States/UTs is not compiled at the Ministry level.

Further, to prevent encroachments various measures are taken such as check posts, buildings for frontline staff, use of modern technology that includes wireless network, remote sensing, Geographical Information System, Information Technology, use of Global Positioning System (GPS) and Differential GPS, improved mobility to the field staff by providing vehicles for patrolling, survey and demarcation of forest areas including digitization of recorded forest areas and construction of boundary pillars etc.

In addition to the above, the State/UT Governments take various steps for protection of the forest areas which include patrolling, strengthening of the check posts/barriers and involvement of Joint Forest Management Committees in preventing encroachment on forest land.