

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1994
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
ENCROACHMENTS IN DELHI RIDGE
Udhayakumar Shri M.

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

- (a) whether the National Green Tribunal has formed a panel to look into the encroachments in central ridge of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the panel has submitted its report and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of encroachments of the central ridge identified so far and the action taken including evictions/demolitions, etc. in each case; and
- (e) the action proposed to be taken to protect the central ridge from shrinking?

Answer

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

(a)& (b) As per the report received from the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, no panel has been formed to look into the encroachments in central ridge of Delhi. However, in the matter of Sanjay Kumar and others v/s Union of India in Original Application No. 306 of 2013, the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi vide order dated 6th May, 2014 directed to constitute a committee comprising the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, representative of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and representative of Ridge Management Board (RMP) to inspect a part of central ridge area. This Committee had to comment on:

1. Whether there is any excess area than what was permitted by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 08.11.1996, occupied by the respondent no. 10 i.e. Asaram Ashram Trust?

2. The total area is indicated as 4312 sq. yard along with the approach path of 350 ft approximately in all. Whether any construction made recently or in excess of the one that existed at the time of passing of the order by the Hon'ble Apex Court?

(c) Yes Sir. The Committee as mentioned above inspected the site of Asaram Ashram Trust in Central Ridge area and has submitted the report. The Committee found certain violations.

(d) Out of a total of 864 hectare land notified as Central Ridge, 423 hectare area is under the administrative control of the Forest Department, Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. There is no encroachment reported in the area under the administrative control of the Forest Department, Government of NCT of Delhi.

(e) Physical monitoring by regular staff, use of satellite imagery data of the area to ensure protection of the ridge.