

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:339

ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015

Encroachment of Forest Land

Giluwa Shri Laxman;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether encroachment of forest land has been reported in various States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the forest areas under encroachment, State and UT-wise;
- (c) the provisions laid down by the Government to pre-empt encroachment of forest land;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to remove the encroachments; and
- (e) the status of implementation of the provisions by the States and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

\*\*\*

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*339 BY SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA AND SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE REGARDING "ENCROACHMENT OF FOREST LAND" DUE FOR REPLY ON 22.12.2015

(a) to (b) As per the information provided by the State/UT governments, the forest area under encroachment is 18,99,032.73 hectares which is approximately 2.47 % of the total recorded forest area of the country. The State/UT-wise details of the forest area under encroachments in the country are given in Annexure-I.

(c) to (e) Protection and Management of Forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government and hence the action to prevent and remove encroachments 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. Details regarding removal of encroachment by State Governments are not maintained in the Ministry.

To prevent fresh encroachments various measures are taken by the State Forest Departments such as setting up of check posts, use of Information and Communication Technology, improved mobility to the field staff, survey and demarcation of forest areas and construction of boundary pillars. Local communities are also involved in conservation, protection and management of forests through Joint Forest Management Committees/ Village level committees.

The Ministry supplements the efforts of the States/UTs in protection and management of forests through Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Intensification of Forest Management Scheme.

\*\*\*