



Ministry of Environment and Forests

ENCROACHMENT IN FOREST AREAS ENDANGERING HABITATS OF THE WILD LIFE

19:21 IST



Lok Sabha

It is not a fact that very large area of the forest under encroachment. Only 17,94,879 hectare of forest land is reported to be under encroachment which constitutes only 2.32% of the total forest area of the country. The details of the forest area encroached are given in Annexure.

Protection and management of forest areas is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT Governments. The Ministry of Environment & Forests provides funds to the State Governments for infrastructure development like development of Forests Chowkis and other miscellaneous works related to eviction operations. Also, Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) has issued guidelines to State/UT Governments to get the encroached land evicted from ineligible encroachers. The MoEF vide letter dated 21.12.2004 had requested the State/UT Governments to exclude tribals/forest dwellers, other than ineligible encroachers, from eviction drives till the claims are settled. With the coming into force of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Rules thereof, State/UT Governments have to implement the provisions of the said Act. Accordingly such encroachment cases have to be examined as per the said Act.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Environment and Forests (independent charge) Shri Jairam Ramesh in a written reply to a question by Shri. Prabodh Panda in Lok Sabha today.

KP/

Annexure

Encroachment in Forest Areas.

S.No.	States	Area Under Encroachment (in Hectare)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	268853(1/1/08)
2.	Bihar	2634(5/9/07)
3.	Chhattisgarh	157092(1/1/08)
4.	Gujarat	22534(1/1/08)
5.	Goa	4882(24/3/08)
6.	Haryana	1463(25/4/08)
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2229(28/2/08)
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	14374 (1/1/08)
9.	Jharkhand	16524 (25/2/08)
10.	Karnataka	108405(1/1/08)
11.	Kerala	12474(1/1/08)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	184740 (1/1/08)

13	Maharashtra	177840(1/1/08)
14	Orissa	53820 (1/9/08)
15	Punjab	8114(1/1/08)
16	Rajasthan	29692 (30/6/08)
17	Tamil Nadu	15214(1/1/08)
18	Uttar Pradesh	27281 (28/2/08)
19	Uttarakhand	8757 (1/1/08)
20	West Bengal	13086(1/1/08)
21	Arunachal Pradesh	89062(1/1/08)
22	Assam	485674(30/10/08)
23	Manipur	5244(25/2/08)
24	Meghalaya	9375(1/1/08)
25	Mizoram	19127(1/1/08)
26	Nagaland	1403(16/5/08)
27	Sikkim	3614(23/8/08)
28	Tripura	47758(25/2/08)
29	Andaman & Nicobar Island	3326(4/12/09)
30	Chandigarh	Nil (1/1/08)
31	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Nil (6/11/08)
32	Daman & Diu	88(1/1/08)
33	Delhi	200 (15/3/07)
34	Lakshdweep	There is no forest area in this UT
35	Puducherry	Nil (1/1/08)
	Total	17,94,879

Note: Area under encroachments in various States/UTs are as on the dates indicated in the brackets.