

consideration in the Ministry. Presently, there are no pending issues to be sorted out by the Ministry of Environment and Forests with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Forest encroachment across the country

493. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that forest encroachment is increasing in the country rampantly, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Forest regions are disappearing due to heavy industrialisation in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to safeguard the forest regions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Encroachment on forest land is not increasing rampantly in the country. However, there are encroachments on forest land by individuals including local tribes for the purpose of agriculture. State-wise extent of encroachment of forest land as reported by State/UTs is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Heavy industrialization may have impact on the forest cover but due to sustainable forest management efforts, the forest cover of the country has registered an increase from 20.60% to 21.05% of the geographical area as per State of Forest Report (SFR) pertaining to the year 2005 and 2011 respectively.

(c) Ministry of Environment & Forests provides Grants-in-aid to State Governments under Intensification of Forest Management Scheme. The aim of the Scheme is to supplement the efforts of the States for forest protection. Funds under the Scheme are utilized for patrolling of the forests, establishment of camps, building fire watch towers, creation and maintenance of fire line, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening of forest infrastructure etc. Funds are also allotted under CAMPA to State/UTs for forest protection. In addition funds are given under National Afforestation Programme and 13th Finance Commission for afforestation and improvement of degraded forest land with the purpose of increasing forest and tree cover and providing livelihood support to forest dependent communities. As per the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 no

diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes can be done without the prior approval of the Government of India. Government has also enacted Forest Rights Act, 2006 with the purpose of recognising the traditional forest rights of Scheduled tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers.

Statement

*State-wise Extent of Encroachment of Forest
land Reported by States/UTs*

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Area Under Encroachment (in ha.)	As on (Date)
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	2,57,000.00	27.07.2011
2	Bihar	356.00	16.02.2013
3	Chhattisgarh	1,18,494.60	07.03.2011
4	Gujarat	34,791.00	19.03.2011
5	Goa	Nil	25.02.2013
6	Haryana	184.63	20.07.2011
7	Himachal Pradesh	4,600.00	21.08.2012
8	Jharkhand	27,360.21	31.07.2012
9	Jammu and Kashmir	13,360.09	17.10.2012
10	Karnataka	1,15,648.23	14.03.2011
11	Kerala	41,063.30	27.02.2012
12	Madhya Pradesh	4,87,438.47	19.10.2011
13	Maharashtra	1,83,171.80	09.08.2011
14	Orissa	78,505.08	22.07.2011
15	Punjab	7,404.00	31.01.2011
16	Rajasthan	31,659.53	31.03.2011

1	2	3	4
17	Tamil Nadu	15,320.37	31.03.2012
18	Uttar Pradesh	26,831.10	15.02.2013
19	Uttarakhand	9,676.00	31.03.2010
20	West Bengal	12,660.97	31.03.2010
21	Arunachal Pradesh	58,553.07	04.03.2011
22	Assam	3,30,400.00	11.09.2012
23	Manipur	1,918.37	10.04.2012
24	Meghalaya	9,378.00	12.03.2011
25	Mizoram	23,933.12	08.04.2011
26	Nagaland	8721.86	26.07.2011
27	Sikkim	3,232.87	13.03.2012
28	Tripura	47,758.14	16.03.2011
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3,326.63	10.03.2011
30	Chandigarh	14.00	11.03.2011
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	613.30	29.04.2011
32	Daman and Diu	87.83	28.09.2010
33	Lakshadweep	Nil	28.08.2010
34	New Delhi	629.51	11.04.2012
35	Puducherry	Nil	21.10.2010
GRAND TOTAL		19,54,092.08	