

(b) and (c) The Ministry has not received any references from the World Heritage Committee regarding any observation of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) about categorization of Natural Heritage Sites in India as good or critical. Also, the World Heritage Committee has no provision for listing of World Heritage Sites as such. However, the World Heritage Committee does list sites as 'World Heritage in Danger'. No Natural Heritage Sites in India is currently listed in this list.

Benches of National Green Tribunal

2050. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the places where benches of National Green Tribunal (NGT) are to be set up; and the names of the places where the branches of NGT are functional;

(b) the reasons for delay in setting up of NGT benches at the identified places; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to make functional all the benches of NGT especially in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) All benches of NGT are functional. Principal bench of NGT is at Delhi. Others are at Pune, Bhopal, Chennai and Kolkata. There is no proposal to set up any more bench of NGT.

Illegal cultivation on forest lands

2051. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the illegal cultivation due to encroachment on forest lands in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any complaints regarding illegal cultivation of forest lands;

(c) if so, the details of such complaints during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check this trend in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) Management and protection of forest area is primarily the responsibility of concerned

State/UT Governments and action is taken to prevent /remove encroachment as per the existing rules and regulations by respective State/UT Governments. As per the reports received from States/UTs, the details of the forest area under encroachment are given in Statement (*See* below). No specific information/complaint regarding illegal cultivation due to encroachment on huge tracts of forest land has been received in the Ministry. However, some States/UTs have reported that the encroached areas in the forests are also being used for cultivation.

(d) Action is taken by the concerned State/UT Governments to prevent/evict encroachments as per the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wild Life Protection Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and the Acts and Rules of various State Governments. This Ministry provides financial assistance to State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including the 'Intensification of Forest Management Scheme' (IFMS), for activities like strengthening of infrastructure *viz.* check posts, buildings for frontline staff, use of modern technology that includes wireless network, remote sensing, geographical information system, information technology, 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 above, the State/UT Governments take various steps for protection of the forest areas which include patrolling of forest areas, strengthening of the check posts/barriers, use of modern information technology for control of forest offences, demarcation of forest areas and digitization of the recorded forest areas, involvement of local Communities/Joint Forest Management Committees in preventing encroachment on forest land.

Statement

The details of the forest area under encroachment

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	Area of Encroachment (in ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40561.96
2.	Bihar	356.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	118494.60
4.	Gujarat	34791.00
5.	Goa	Nil
6.	Haryana	184.63
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4600.00

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	Area of Encroachment (in ha.)
8.	Jharkhand	27360.21
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	14345.02
10.	Karnataka	81776.80
11.	Kerala	41063.30
12.	Madhya Pradesh	370484.51
13.	Maharashtra	183171.80
14.	Odisha	78505.08
15.	Punjab	7404.00
16.	Rajasthan	31659.53
17.	Tamil Nadu	15142
18.	Telangana	183465.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	26831.10
20.	Uttarakhand	9656.73
21.	West Bengal	12660.97
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	58626.57
23.	Assam	330385.00
24.	Manipur	1918.37
25.	Meghalaya	9378.00
26.	Mizoram	29933.12
27.	Nagaland	8721.86
28.	Sikkim	3232.87
29.	Tripura	6.77
30.	A and N Islands	4379.36
31.	Chandigarh	14.00
32.	D and N Haveli	614.40
33.	Daman and Diu	87.83
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil
35.	Delhi	629.51
36.	Puducherry	Nil
GRAND TOTAL		1634320.08