GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 530**
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 21.07.2022

**Encroachment on forest lands in Gujarat**

530. SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL:

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

(a) number of industries/people in the State of Gujarat that have made encroachment on forest lands;
(b) whether Government has legalized these illegally encroached forest lands; and
(c) amount of fine that has been imposed by National Green Tribunal/Supreme Court/High Court on these industries people for encroaching on forest lands?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c) Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT. Actions to remove encroachment are taken as per the provisions under various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;Rules made under these Acts and State specific Acts and Rules.

The Ministry has written to State Governments/UT Administrations to remove encroachments as per the existing Acts/Rules and to ensure that no further encroachment takes place. In order to prevent and control encroachments, the States and UTs also take various measures such as demarcation and digitization of forest boundaries, strengthening infrastructure for forest protection, involving fringe area forest communities through Joint Forest Management Committees, Eco Development Committees etc.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides financial assistance to the States/UTs for protection and development of Protected Areas including measures aimed at prevention of encroachment.

Government of Gujarat has reported that a total of 766 cases of encroachment on forest land by industries and individuals have been recorded in Gujarat State. Further, as per the penal provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, 11 encroachments done by industries/institutions have been regularized as per the legal provisions.

Government of Gujarat has reported that no fine has been imposed by National Green Tribunal/Supreme Court/High Court in any of the above cases.

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