

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1023
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
EVICTION DRIVE FOR ENCROACHMENTS OF FOREST LAND
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court in February this year had directed various States to prevent any further encroachment of forest lands and to remove encroachments;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government of Assam and other States in the North Eastern Region and the extent of encroachments removed in the process by these States;
- (c) whether the National Human Rights Commission has objected to the forest areas eviction drives in Assam and other States in the North East;
- (d) if so, the precise objections thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to resolve the issue and rehabilitate the evictees?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT and FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) The Supreme Court of India in their order dated 23.11.2001 and further order dated 07.05.2002, have restrained the Central Government from regularisation of encroachments and directed to evict the encroachers from forest land. The Government of India had issued instructions to all the States/Union Territories for taking up eviction of encroachers in a time bound manner in compliance with the directives of the Apex Court and also in conformity with the provisions of the National Forest Policy, 1988. It is learnt that Government of Assam has got significant area free from encroachments. Details of action taken to evict encroachers by other North-Eastern States have not been received.

(c) (d) & (e) Information has been sought and shall be laid on the Table of the House.