

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4161
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED FAMILIES
RAJO SINGH

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

- (a) the number of persons who encroached upon the forest land in Andaman and Nicobar Islands before and after December 31, 1978 separately and the total area encroached upon by them;
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted for ascertaining the total area involved;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any allotment was made to the pre-1978 encroachers and package of rehabilitation was decided for shifting the encroached families to the rehabilitation sites; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c) The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has informed that 1367 persons have encroached 2458.983 ha. of forest land prior to 31st December, 1978 and 2271 persons have encroached 2911.79 ha. of forest land after 31st December, 1978. Survey was conducted to ascertain the extent of forest area involved in the encroachment. Encroachments have been reported mainly in South Andaman, Baratang, Middle Andaman, Mayabunder and Diglipur Forest Divisions.

(d) & (e) Central Government has approved one proposal of Andaman and Nicobar Islands involving 1367 ha. of forest land for regularisation of pre-1978 encroachments under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 19.8.1988. One of the condition stipulated was that A.& N. Administration may proceed to lay down individual plots not exceeding 1 ha. for allotment to pre-1978 encroachers.