

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:339
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
ENCROACHMENTS ON FOREST LAND
Pateriya Smt. Neeta;Virendra Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether there is large scale encroachment upon the forest land all over the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Indian Forest Act, 1927 is enough to deal with the unlawful encroachment;
- (c) if not, whether the Government proposes to amend the existing law to make it more effective; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 339 BY SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR AND SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA REGARDING "ENCROACHMENTS ON FOREST LAND" DUE FOR REPLY ON 18-04-2005

(a) According to the reports received from various State/Union Territory Governments, about 13.43 lakh hectares of forest land is under encroachment in the country. This is approximately 0.203% of the total forest land in the country.

(b) Yes Sir. Encroachment of forest land is an offence under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. There are adequate provisions in the Indian Forest Act, 1927 to deal with the cases of such encroachment.

(c)&(d) Do not arise.