

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 129/2024  
(I.A.No.180/2024)

News Item titled "Forest land five times Delhi's geographical area under encroachment govt. data shows" appearing in Deccan Herald dated 05.01.2024

Date of hearing: 19.04.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR AGARWAL, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondent: Mr. Ravinder Gupta, Adv. for MoEF & CC (Through VC)  
Mr. Pukhramban Ramesh Kumar, Mr. Karun Sharma, Ms. Raj Kumari Divyasuna & Ms. Anupama Ngangon, Advs. for the State of Manipur  
Mr. Gigi. C. George, Adv. for Andaman & Nicobar Islands  
Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, Mr. Sumit Kumar & Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Advs. for the State of Tripura  
Mr. Divyanshu Kumar Srivastava, Adv. for the State of Himachal Pradesh (Through VC)  
Mr. Shubham Bhalla, Adv. for R - 7 (Through VC)  
Ms. Jyoti Mendiratta, Adv. for DCF, GNCTD (Through VC)

**ORDER**

1. In this Original Application, registered *suo-moto*, Tribunal is examining the issue of large scale encroachment on the forest land across the country.

2. Tribunal in the previous proceedings had taken note of the fact that in the State of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur, forest area under encroachment is falling to the extent of 56%. Accordingly, all the concerned States were impleaded along with the Secretary, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi as respondents and notices were issued.

3. Response on behalf of some of the States /Union Territories have been received.

4. States/Union Territories are directed to disclose the information in their reply by filing an annexure thereto containing the information in the following table:-

**Details of encroachment of Forest (in Hectors)**

S. No.	Name of the district	Total Forest Cover	Details of encroachment					Total encroachment upto March, 2024 District-Wise	Action Taken for removal of encroachment year wise District-Wise	Percentage loss of forest as on March, 2024 District-Wise
			Protected Forest	Reserve Forest	Deemed Forest	Sanctuaries and protected areas	Any other type of forest			

5. Counsel for those States /Union Territories who are yet to file the response have sought time to file the same. All the States/Union Territories are directed to supply a copy of the reply to Counsel for respondent no.1 i.e. Secretary, MoEF&CC in addition to filing of the same before the Tribunal. Secretary, MoEF&CC will compile the information so received from all the States/Union Territories in the following tabulated form:-

**Details of encroachment of Forest (in Hectors)**

S. No.	State/UT	Total Forest Cover	Details of encroachment					Total encroachment upto March, 2024	Action Taken for removal of encroachment year wise	Percentage loss of forest as on March, 2024
			Protected Forest	Reserve Forest	Deemed Forest	Sanctuaries and protected areas	Any other type of forest			

6. Let response by all the remaining States/Union Territories as also tabulated compiled response by the respondent no.1 be filed atleast one week before the next date of hearing. The States/Union Territories which have already filed the response will submit the above tabulated information to the respondent no.1.

7. Copy of the reply/response to the MoEF&CC is to be sent by all the States/Union Territories in the following email address:

i. [ravinder\\_adv@yahoo.com](mailto:ravinder_adv@yahoo.com)

ii. [fpd-moefcc@gov.in](mailto:fpd-moefcc@gov.in)

8. I.A. No.180/2024 has been filed by respondent no.33-State of Tripura for correction of its description. Hence, I.A. No.180/2024 is allowed and description of respondent no.33-State of Tripura is corrected as under:

“Principal Secretary to the Government of Tripura, Department of Forest, Aranya Bhawan, Nehru Complex, Gorkhabasti, Agartala, Tripura-799006.”

9. Let cause title be amended accordingly.

10. List on 31.07.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

April 19, 2024  
Original Application No. 129/2024  
(I.A.No.180/2024)  
JG.