

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3345
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
SETTING UP OF FOREST DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES
CHANDRAKANT BHURAO KHAIRE

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

- (a) the names of States and Union Territories where forests development agencies have been set up as on June 30, 2001:
- (b) the activities of these agencies and the results achieved therefrom;
- (c) whether the Government propose to set up similar agencies in more States and Territories during the current and next financial years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) to (d) Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) have been set up in States/Union Territories of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Punjab Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal as on 30.6.2001. These agencies have been setup at territorial forest/wildlife division level to provide funnel mechanism through which financial assistance under various centrally sponsored afforestation schemes would directly flow to the areas covered by the FDA for implementation at grassroots level by the village forest committees (VFCs)/Eco-development committees (EDCs), duly ensuring timely flow of funds to the field level and involvement of local people at all stages of project implementation. So far financial assistance has been provided to 19 FDAs spread over 9 States only for afforestation of degraded areas. The funds are utilized through VFCs/EDCs. The approach has been initiated on pilot phase from 2000-01 and the activities have been confined to preparatory action for plantation and nursery raising work during the year 2000-01. The remaining States and Union Territories have been requested by the Central Government for expeditious setting up of Forest Development Agencies.