

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4483
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
FORESTRY PLANTATION
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there is thick forest in Tamil Nadu particularly in Periyakulam Constituency;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to introduce forestry plantation such as sandalwood, sal and teak trees in the dry lands which will safeguard the fertility of the lands and environment as well as stop illegal smuggling of costly wood;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) by when the same will be implemented ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d) As per the information made available by Tamil Nadu Forest Department, the area is rich in biodiversity. Sandalwood plantations in the past have not given encouraging result as heartwood developed is of poor quality. Sal does not occur naturally in the area. Because of aforesaid reasons, forestry plantations of sandal and sal trees are not being undertaken. To discourage monoculture, forestry plantation of teak is not contemplated. With a view to encouraging bio-diversity conservation, indigenously occurring natural tree species and medicinal plants are being regenerated by involving local people. However, on patta lands and other non-forest lands, planting of teak and other species is being encouraged by Tamil Nadu Forest Department.