

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1136  
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005  
CONVERSION OF BARREN LAND INTO FOREST AREA  
Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra

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

- (a) whether any scheme is being implemented by the Government that converts barren land into forest area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the private organisation can be involved in it; and
- (d) if so, the mechanism therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) during the Tenth Five Year Plan through a two- tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level to regenerate degraded forests and adjoining lands. As on 31.3.2005, 620 FDA projects have been approved in the country to treat an area of 8.68 lakh hectares. In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has launched the Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme during 2005-06 to raise mass awareness about use of quality planting material (QPM) and tree planting, enhancing the capacity for QPM production, and tree planting with people's participation.

(c) and (d) Under the Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme, individuals and private entrepreneurs including farmers below poverty line are eligible for assistance for setting up of nurseries for production of QPM. Registered Societies, Non-Profit Organisations, Co-operatives, Charitable Trusts, and Voluntary Agencies are eligible for assistance for tree planting under the scheme.