

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1671

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006

PROMOTION OF AGRO FORESTRY AND FRUITS PRODUCING UNITS .

Baxla Shri Joachim;Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to promote agro forestry and fruit producing units in the country particularly in West Bengal, Jharkhand and backward areas of other States;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard;
- (c) The funds provided for the purpose; and
- (d) If not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) during X Five Year Plan in the country, including West Bengal and Jharkhand. Under this scheme districts, namely Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, Hoogly, Purulia, Bankura, North 24-Parganas, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Paschim Midnapore and Puruilla of West Bengal and Palamu, Chhatra, Latehar, Dumka, Deoghar, Ranchi, Lohardaga, Hazaribagh, Saraikela and East Singhbhum of Jharkhand are covered. An amount of Rs.40.35 crore has been released to West Bengal and Rs.30.30 crore to Jharkhand during 2005-06. A total of Rs.559.35 crore have been released under NHM to other States during 2005-06.

In addition, Ministry of Environment & Forest is implementing a National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forests lands during X Five Year Plan. Under the programme, promotion of agro-forestry on non-forest land is undertaken as an entry point activity. The scheme is being implemented through two tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency

(FDA) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. Under this programme, 715 FDA Projects of 28 States have been approved to cover a project area of 9.24 lakh ha. through 23,750 JFMCs.

Government of India is also implementing various Watershed Development Programmes namely,

- (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPA),
- (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR),
- (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS),
- (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSCA),
- (v) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs),
- (vi) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP),
- (vii) Desert Development Programme (DDP) &
- (viii) Integrated Waste-land Development Programme (IWDP) in which Agro Forestry is adopted as one of the activity.