

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:376  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006  
PRIVATE SECTOR IN AFFORESTATION  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to create a balance between conservation and development for long term ecological security;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard so far;
- (c) whether the Government has sought participation from different stakeholders to make wastelands green under the multi-stakeholder partnership programme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and their response thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a), (b), (c) and (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 376 to be replied on 18.12.2006.

(a) Yes, Sir. The National Environment Policy 2006 seeks to achieve balance and harmony between conservation and development. The policy is intended to mainstream environmental concerns in all development activities. The dominant theme of this policy is that while conservation of environmental resources is necessary to secure livelihoods and well-being of all, the most secure basis for conservation is to ensure that people dependent on particular resources obtain better livelihoods from the fact of conservation, than from degradation of the resource.

(b) The initiatives taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in accordance with the policy include rationalizing and streamlining the processes for achieving greater transparency and inducting greater expertise in decision-making, and for ensuring that decisions are taken within a given time frame on proposals seeking environmental and forestry clearances through reengineering of business processes and observance of good practices. In addition, some developmental schemes of the Ministry have provision for supplementary and alternative livelihood support, and creation of minor infrastructure by way of paths and roads, jetties, drinking water, medical and health, irrigation facilities etc. with the objective of improving the quality of life of people living in and around forests and other biological resources.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has mooted a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) framework involving the land owning agency, the sponsor, the forest department, and the local village community for forestation on degraded forest lands, and other lands, as one of the measures to achieve one-third Forest and Tree Cover in the country. The elements of the proposed MSP framework have been drafted after discussions with the representatives of the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations, industry associations, experts, etc. Their response has been generally positive.