

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3645
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
AFFORESTATION
Baxla Shri Joachim

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

- (a) the names of tourism ranges brought under the programme of afforestation particularly in North Bengal hills during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the range-wise areas covered under such programme, State-wise; and
- (c) the quantum of funds allotted and utilized on such programme, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is not implementing any specific scheme aimed at afforestation in tourist areas. However, the Ministry is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas, which may also include areas of tourist interest. The scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized set up of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMcS) at village level. 431 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States, including the hills in northern West Bengal, to cover a total project area of 4.46 lakh hectare under the scheme during last three years (2003-2004 to 2005 -06). State-wise number of approved FDA projects, total area covered and fund released during the said period is given in Annexure.