

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:240  
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007  
PLANTING OF SAPLINGS FOR BETTER ECOLOGY  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to plant saplings in the country for better ecology and environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether private organisations have shown interest in the said project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has instituted any special cash prize to the States, UTs and District Administrations which are planting large number of saplings;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the number of such awards given so far, State-wise; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to promote the cultivation of saplings in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.240 to be replied on 29.8.2007

(a), (b), (c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas, through a number of measures including through planting of seedlings. The NAP scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized set-up of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. 729 FDA projects have been approved upto 31.3.2007 in 28 States to treat 9.36 lakh hectares through 24,215 JFMCs, and a total sum of Rs.1176.03 crores has been released under the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07) including maintenance of plantations raised during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The outlay for 2007-08 under the scheme is Rs. 322.57 crores.

In addition to the NAP scheme, the Ministry is also implementing Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme since 2005-06 under which funds are also provided to various agencies including non-profit organisations, cooperatives, charitable trusts, voluntary agencies, etc. for planting of quality planting material (QPM) on government, community, private and other types of lands. The outlay for 2007-08 under the scheme is Rs. 11.70 crores.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. No cash prize has been instituted for the States, Union Territories and District Administrations which are planting large number of saplings. However, the Ministry has instituted the Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra Award (IPVM) to recognize the pioneering and innovative contributions made by individuals and institutions in the field of afforestation/wasteland development every year. The Awards are given in 12 categories, including government agencies (not above district level) and State Government organizations. The first prize includes a Medallion, a Citation and cash of Rupees 1,25,000/- and the second prize includes cash of Rs.1,00,000/- apart from a Medallion and Citation

(g) The following steps have been taken to promote tree planting in the country: -

(i) A major programme known as Green India programme to afforest degraded lands using compensatory afforestation and other funds has been announced by the Prime Minister.

(ii) The Ministry has mooted a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) framework for afforestation of degraded lands.

(iii) As a follow-up of the Mid-Term Appraisal of 10th Five Year Plan, a new scheme for afforestation involving Panchayati Raj Institution for tree planting on non-forest lands has been mooted.

(iv) A restructured scheme for Grants-in-Aid for Greening India was launched in 2005-06 to promote production and use of quality planting material in tree planting.

(v) Guidelines have been issued by Government of India on 15-12-2004 to the States for rationalization of regulatory provision about felling and transport of trees grown on private lands.

(vi) Establishment of two new Eco-Task Force (ETF) Battalions for ecorestoration of degraded areas is mooted by the Ministry, in addition to supporting the existing four ETF battalions.

(vii) States have been advised to constitute State-level coordination committee under chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for eliciting cooperation of all land-owning Departments for contributing towards increase in forest and tree cover.

(viii) State Government and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement a comprehensive Media Plan to create mass awareness about tree planting.