

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1021  
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006  
ESTIMATES BY PLANNING COMMISSION ON PLANTATION  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of estimates made by Planning Commission for plantation in the country for the current plan period;
- (b) the details of targets achieved so far;
- (c) whether the Government has worked out per hectare cost of plantation in the country;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) the details of funds allocated in the current plan so far; and
- (f) the steps taken to achieve the targets of current plan?

**Answer**

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

(a)and (b) The targets given in the Tenth Plan do not specifically refer to plantations. However, the Planning Commission has indicated a target of achieving 25% forest and tree cover in the country by the end of the current Five Year Plan. As per State of Forest Report, 2003 prepared by Forest Survey of India, 23.68% of the country's geographical area was under forest and tree cover.

(c), (d), and (e) The unit cost of plantations varies depending upon the bio- physical characteristics, for example site conditions, choice of species, type of planting material, espacement of planted seedlings etc., and the prevailing wage rates. Under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) being implemented by Ministry of Environment and Forests also, the unit cost of plantation is based on prevailing wage rates in the project area and the technical details of various components under different models of plantation. An outlay of Rs.1205 crores has been indicated by the Planning Commission for National Afforestation Programme during the 10th Five Year Plan period.

(f) Following steps have been taken to achieve the targets of the current Five Year Plan:

(i) As on 6.2.2006, 680 Forest Development Agency projects have been approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to treat a project area of 9.04 lakh hectare through 22,878 Joint Forest Management Committees.

(ii) Consultations with State Government and Union Territories Administrations, other Ministries of Government of India, research institutes and non-government organizations have been held, In addition, State Forest Ministers' Conference on 5-6 August 2004 and 15 February 2006, have been held to sensitize the States/ Union Territories of the need to adopt increased tree planting targets,

(iii) Guidelines for rationalization of felling and transit regulations for tree species grown on non-forest private lands have been issued to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to encourage private tree plantation, (iv) State Government and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement a comprehensive Media Plan to create mass awareness about tree planting, (v) State Government and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to constitute Chief Secretary-level Committee of all land owning and other concerned Departments to involve them in tree planting activities,(vi) Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP), involving State Forest Department, the local village community and the private sector, has been mooted for forestation of degraded lands.(vii) A new component has been added in the National Afforestation Programme to extend joint forest management (JFM) to all 1.73 lakh forest- fringe villages in the country.