

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1734
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
AWARD IN THE FIELD OF AFFORESTATION
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has instituted any award and special cash prize for the States, UTs and District Administrations for planting large number of saplings/free planting and for contribution in the field of afforestation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such awards given during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the cultivation of saplings/tree planting in the country?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has decided to institute Awards to the States/UTs which contribute in enhancing the percentage of forest and tree cover in the respective States/UTs. These awards would be in the form of cash prizes and citations to be presented once in two years on the basis of the State of Forest Report published by the Forest Survey of India. No awards have been presented yet.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing a number of schemes, including the National Afforestation Programme scheme and the Grants-in-Aid for Greening India scheme, which contribute to increase in forest and tree cover in the country. The Ministry has also mooted Gram Van Yojana scheme for afforestation of non-forest lands involving Panchayati Raj Institutions during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Besides, tree planting is one of the permissible activity in the schemes of other Ministries including Integrated Watershed Management Programme, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, etc.