

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1987
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
UTILIZATION OF INDIAN FOREST SERVICE
Channappa Shri Kunnur Manjunath

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

- (a) whether the services of Indian Forests Service (IFS) are being utilised fully taking into account that 30 per cent of our land is covered by forests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to utilize the services fully and make the officers of IFS more accountable?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers are appointed by the Government of India, and are allotted to different State and Union Territory cadres. The services of IFS officers are utilised appropriately by respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. So far as development of lands covered by forests is concerned, the Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) through a 2-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level, and Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) at the village level. The positions of Chairperson and the Member Secretary cum Chief Executive Officer of the FDAs are held by the Conservator of Forests and Divisional Forest Officer respectively. Also, at higher levels, the implementation of NAP is supervised by the senior IFS officers in the State.

(c) To further utilise the services of the IFS officers, the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations also post them in allied departments where their professional expertise is made use of in forging synergy between conservation and development. The FDA mechanism has intrinsic attribute of increased accountability of the IFS officers, since they as Chairperson and Member Secretary cum Chief Executive Officer are accountable to a broad-based body comprising representatives of public and the officials of other line departments of government.