

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:297
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010
TREE PLANTATION
Lal Shri Pakauri

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

- (a) whether several State Governments have not achieved the targets set for tree plantation during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Year-wise targets for afforestation/tree planting are fixed under the 20 Point Programme. Few states have not achieved the targets during the Eleventh Five Year period. The targets and achievements for afforestation/tree planting from 2007-08 to 2009-10 upto October 2009 during the Plan are given in Annexure. Some of the reasons for less achievement of targets as reported by the States/UTs are:

- (i) Inadequate funds available with the State Forest Departments/other agencies
- (ii) Poor infrastructure and capacity of the Departments including staff shortage

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government for Afforestation/Tree Planting:

- (i) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme (NAP), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. As on 18-02-2010, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States to cover a project area of 1.69 million ha.
- (ii) Two new Eco- Task Force (ETF) Battalions have been operationalised by the Ministry for ecorestoration of degraded areas in Assam, in addition to supporting the existing four ETF battalions in the country.
- (iii) A new scheme for afforestation involving Panchayati Raj Institution, Gram/ Panchayat Van Yojana has been mooted by the Ministry.
- (iv) Tree planting is a permissible activity under a number of schemes of other Ministries of Government of India, notably Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture.
- (v) To boost up afforestation and related activities, the convergence guidelines of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and NAP have been issued jointly by Ministry of Environment & Forests and Ministry of Rural Development.
- (vi) Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change announced by the Government, a National Mission for a 'Green India' has been mooted as one of the eight missions to inter alia help counter the effects of climate change through forestation programmes.
- (vii) A new state plan scheme, namely, Additional Central Assistance for Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover, has been introduced in the Union Budget of 2009-10 with an allocation of Rs.500.00 crores.