

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:935

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010

MAINTENANCE/EXPANSION OF FOREST COVER

Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) the details of the various schemes of the Union Government for maintaining, preserving and expanding forest cover in the country;
- (b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to grant incentives to the States in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the benefits likely to accrue to the local Government as a result thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a)The details of the major schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for maintaining, preserving and expanding forest cover of the country are:

S.N.	Name of the Scheme	Funding Pattern	Budgetary allocation (Central Share) for 2009-10 (Revised Estimate)
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1	National Afforestation Programme	100%	Rs.318.17 crores
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2	Intensification of Forest Management Scheme	75%(90% in Special Category States)	Rs. 68.00 crores
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(b)&(c) A new state plan scheme namely Additional Central Assistance for Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover has been introduced during the current financial year with an outlay of Rs.500.00 crores. One of the criteria for allocation of funds under the scheme is the extent of forest cover in the States/UTs.

(d) Maintenance and expansion of forest cover would inter alia enhance ground water recharge and agricultural productivity on the downstream side which will be beneficial to the local Government.