

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2475

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009

CONSTITUTION OF JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvaraya Swamy

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

- (a) the number of Joint Forest Management Committee constituted in the country, State-wise including Karnataka;
- (b) whether there is any plan to entrust them the work of protection, management and development of forests;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the achievements made by them?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Based on the reports received from the State/UT Governments, the total number of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), including the Van Panchayats of Uttarakhand, constituted in the country up to June 2008 is 1,13,049. The State-wise details are given in the Annexure. The number of JFMCs reported in Karnataka is 4849.

(b)&(c) The JFMCs are constituted with the objective of involvement of local people in regeneration, protection and management of forests. The Resolution of the State Government on the Joint Forest Management prescribes the manner and the extent to which these Committees are to be involved in the Joint Forest Management. The Government of Karnataka order No. FEE-50 FAP-2000 dated 19-6-2002 envisages partnership of JFM Committees in planning, protection, conservation and development of degraded forest areas and other Government waste lands. The said order further envisages that JFM Committees shall play important role in enriching the forests by preventing encroachment, forest fires, illicit cutting, smuggling of forest produce, poaching of wild animals and regulating grazing and such other functions which are needed to develop forest resources. Accordingly, village micro-plans are prepared and JFM Committees are entrusted with the work of protection, management and development of jointly managed forests.

(d) With the help of Joint Forest Management programme, in addition to providing protection to the forests against illicit felling, poaching, fires and encroachments, plantations have been raised in about 1.58 million ha. area through the JFMCs in the country. As reported, in Karnataka the Committee members are able to meet their requirements for fodder, fuel-wood, small timber and minor forest products. In addition, through JFMCs plantations have been raised in 2,20,599 ha.