

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:562
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010
REVIEW OF NATIONAL AFFORESTATION PROGRAMME
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently reviewed the National Afforestation Programme for regeneration of degraded forests in the country;
- (b) if so, the outcome of the review including the deficiencies identified by the Government in the implementation of the programme;
- (c) the total area restored and regenerated under the forest cover since the inception of the said programme and the funds spent thereon, State-wise; and
- (d) the strategies reformulated by the Government for conservation, management and development of forest in the country?

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c) and (d) A statement has been laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.562 by Shri Kachhadia Naranbhai and Shri N. S. V. Chitthan due for reply on 05.05.2010.

(a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests undertook a comprehensive review of the National Afforestation Programme guidelines based on the feedback from the implementing States and other stakeholders, as well as mid- term evaluation of the programme.

(b) The review brought out the need to further strengthen the scheme addressing certain constraints. It was considered desirable to inter alia further decentralize the scheme administration to the states, modify the institutional arrangements, streamline the fund flow, and add two new components with a view to enhance the delivery of the programme.

(c) As of 31.3.2010, a total area of 1.69 million hectares has been approved for treatment since the inception of the programme. Funds provided under the scheme are furnished in Annexure, state-wise.

(d) Some new strategies and initiatives taken by the Government for conservation, management and development of forests include the National Mission for a 'Green India', the mission document being under formulation and a grant of Rs. 5000 crores under the 13th Finance Commission Award to incentivize the States for maintaining their forest cover.