

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:161
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009
COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION MANAGEMENT
Pathak Shri Harin

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

- (a) the existing set up for administration of compensatory afforestation;
- (b) whether the Union Government has constituted the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA);
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the amount remitted to CAMPA, State-wise;
- (e) whether the CAMPA has released funds to the State Governments;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the time by which the funds are likely to be released?

Answer

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

(a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 161 ASKED BY SHRI HARIN PATHAK REGARDING "COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION MANAGEMENT" DUE FOR ANSWER ON 15.07.2009.

(a) to (c) In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated the 29th October, 2002 in IA No. 566 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Versus Union of India & Others, the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment and Forests constituted the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) vide its Order dated 23rd April, 2004. However, the CAMPA could not become operational. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 05.05.2006 in I.A. No. 1473 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 constituted an Ad-hoc body of the CAMPA comprising of the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests as Chairman; Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation); a representative of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India; and a nominee of the Chairman of the Central Empowered Committee as members with the following functions:-

(i) ensure that all the monies recovered on behalf of the 'CAMPA' and which are presently lying with the various officials of the State Government are transferred to the bank account(s) to be operated by this body;

(ii) get audited all the monies received from the user agencies on behalf of the 'CAMPA' and the income earned thereon by the various State Government officials. The auditors may be appointed by the CAG. The audit may also examine whether proper financial procedure has been following in investing the funds;"

(d) As on 30.06.2009, an amount of about Rs.9932.12 crores was remitted by State/UT Governments. A Statement showing the State-wise amount remitted into the account of Ad-hoc CAMPA is placed at Annexure.

(e) to (h) The Ad-hoc CAMPA has, so far, not released money to the States/UTs as the Supreme Court did not authorize Ad-hoc CAMPA to disburse the monies remitted to it by State/UT Governments.

The Ad-hoc CAMPA filed a report on 07.07.2009, in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in compliance with its Order dated 25.02.2009, seeking authorization to release money as per Annual Plans of Operations (APOs) submitted by States/UTs. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 10.07.2009 has permitted the Ad-hoc CAMPA to release money as prayed for. The guidelines dated 02.07.2009 for setting up of State CAMPAs have also been agreed to by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

