

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2423
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
DECLARATION OF GREEN BELT
Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to announce special programme for the maintenance of green cover of Sahyadri Mountain in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to involve the tribals and local people of this region in the forest conservation programme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the amount earmarked for this purpose?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has no specific programme for the maintenance of green cover of Sahyadri Mountain in Maharashtra. However, the Ministry of Environment & Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme for afforestation and eco-restoration of the degraded forests in the country and adjoining areas. The scheme is implemented through the State Forest Development Agency at the State Level, Forest Development Agencies at the Forest Division Level and Joint Forest Management Committees at the village level. The Forest Divisions in the Sahyadri Mountains in Maharashtra are also funded in this programme.

(c), (d) and (e) Yes Sir. In the National Afforestation Programme, Afforestation is done through People's participation through the Joint Forest Management Committees or Village Forest Committees at the Village Level. In the Sahyadri Mountain Range, there are a total of 699 Village Forest Committees which includes tribals and other weaker sections of the society. The Ministry of Environment & Forest has sanctioned an outlay of Rs.1575.93 lakhs under this programme for the year 2010-11 for the Forest Development Agencies in the Sahyadri Mountain in Maharashtra.