

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3626

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010

JFMC UNDER GRAM SABHAS

Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh

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

- (a) Whether the Government has directed all the State Governments to amend State acts and rules to bring all Joint Forest Management committees (JFMCs) under the supervision of Gram Sabhas;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) The reasons therefor and the reaction of the States thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) To (c): The Ministry of Environment and Forests, after having dialogue with various stakeholders on the functioning of JFMCs in the context of decentralized governance as envisaged by the 73rd Constitution Amendment relating to panchayats and the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996, has given following suggestions to the State Governments vide its letter dated 29.10.2010:

- (i) Existing JFMCs should function under the overall guidance and supervision of the Gram Sabhas and where new JFMCs are to be set up they should be done by the Gram Sabhas.
- (ii) JFMCs should be recognized as organs of the Gram Sabha under the relevant state Acts relation to panchayat raj institutions.
- (iii) JFMCs should function as Standing Committees of Gram Paanchayats for item 6 (social forestry and farm forestry) AND ITEM 7 (MINOR FOREST PRODUCE) listed in the Eleventh Schedule to the constitution.
- (iv) The manner in which the development funds of the JFMCs are used should be approved by the Gram Sabha.

The State Governments were also requested to give due consideration put into effect the above suggestions by appropriate amendments of the relevant State Acts, Rules and Executive Orders relating to both JFMCs and panchayati raj institutions.