

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3388

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009

CONSERVATION OF FORESTS IN NORTH EASTERN STATES

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

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for afforestation in the country especially in the North-Eastern States;
- (b) the details of aberration made by each State in the enforcement of Supreme Court directives on the forest conservation in the region; and
- (c) the specific eco-development protection plans envisaged for implementation in the country in terms of national and international conventions with special reference to the North-Eastern States?

Answer

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

(a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme (NAP), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. As on 31st March 2009, 795 FDA projects including 139 projects in North-Eastern States have been approved in 28 States to cover a project area of 1.58 million ha through 34,717 JFMCs.

In addition to above, the following steps have been taken for Afforestation/Tree Planting:

- (i) Two new Eco- Task Force (ETF) Battalions have been operationalised by the Ministry for ecorestoration of degraded areas in Assam, in addition to supporting the existing four ETF battalions in the country.
- (ii) A new scheme for afforestation involving Panchayati Raj Institution, Gram/ Panchayat Van Yojana has been mooted by the Ministry.
- (iii) Tree planting is a permissible activity under a number of schemes of other Ministries of Government of India, notably Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture.
- (iv) To boost up afforestation and related activities, the convergence guidelines of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and NAP have been issued jointly by Ministry of Environment & Forests and Ministry of Rural Development.
- (v) Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change announced by the Government, a National Mission for a 'Green India' has been mooted as one of the eight missions to inter alia help counter the effects of climate change through forestation programmes.
- (vi) A new state plan scheme, namely, Additional Central Assistance for Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover, has been introduced in the Union Budget of 2009-10 with an allocation of Rs.500.00 crores.

(b) No aberration has been reported by the State/UT Governments to the Ministry in the recent past with regard to Supreme Court directives on forest conservation.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests implements the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which inter alia include eco-development and protection objectives:

1. National Afforestation Programme (NAP)
2. Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS)
3. Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats
4. Project Tiger
5. Project Elephant

6. Conservation and Management of Wetlands, Mangroves, and Coral Reefs

7. Biosphere Reserves