

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2907
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011
FUNDS FOR NATIONAL AFFORESTATION PROGRAMME
Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forests in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked allocated to the Forests Development Agencies (FDAs) during the last three years and current year, State/ Union Territory-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to release adequate funds for forest infrastructure for their development and conservation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/ Union Territory-wise including Karnataka;
- (e) whether there have been instances of the funds, allocated for afforestation programme and not being properly utilized by various States in the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests reviewed the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) guidelines based on the feedback from the implementing States and other stakeholders, as well as mid-term evaluation of the programme. 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. Revised Operational guidelines of NAP have been issued in the year 2009. The State-wise details of funds released under NAP scheme during last three years (2008-09 to 2010-11) and current year are given in Annexure I.

(c) & (d) The Ministry of Environment & Forests is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "Intensification of Forest Management Scheme", which aims at creation of infrastructure for development and conservation of forest resources in the country. The details of funds released to States including Karnataka State during the Current Financial Year (2011-12) is given in Annexure II.(e) to (g) It has come to the notice of Ministry of Environment & Forests that funds provided to State of Goa under the National Afforestation Programme Scheme in the year 2003-04 have not been fully utilized. The State Government has now refunded the unspent amount.