

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4090
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
INTRODUCTION OF FARM FOREST
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced 'Farm Forest' to promote afforestation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Teak, Bamboo, Silver Oak and Fruit-yielding saplings would be supplied to farmers at discount rate in the country;
- (d) if so, whether the fake/substandard saplings are supplied to farmers in the country;
- (e) if so, whether the Government has received complaints in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests does not have any specific scheme for Farm Forest in the country. However, the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests provides for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. This scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Centrally Sponsored Programmes of 'National Bamboo Mission' in 27 States of the country from the year 2006-07 and central assistance of Rs.8000/- per hectare is provided in order to harness the potential of bamboo crop for enhancing income of the farmers. Components of the scheme include mass production of quality planting material, improved post harvest management, development of human resources and marketing facilities. Besides, National Bamboo Mission, four Centrally Sponsored Programmes namely; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP&FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS) and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) are also being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture with a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and to improve productivity / fertility of degraded agricultural land across the country. Under these programmes, seedling/ plantation on field boundary / bund/ contour bund is one of the component being implemented in agricultural lands. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) also, drought proofing including afforestation and tree plantation are listed activities for wage employment and for plantation on individual lands of small and marginal farmers.

(c) The State Governments have various schemes to supply saplings including that of teak, bamboo and other species at discount rates to public including farmers.

(d) to (f) As per the information received from Ministry of Agriculture, the programmes and mission are being implemented by various departments of State Governments and no complaints about supply of substandard seedlings/saplings have been received.