

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1951

ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012

SETTING UP OF NEAMA

Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil;Singh Baba Shri K.C.;Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Environmental Appraisal and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind constituting the aforesaid authority;
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be setup in the country;
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to tackle the issue of Deforestation/ Development in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c) The Ministry proposes to establish a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) with domain expertise, technological finesse and field outreach in order to strengthen and professionalize the regimes of environment impact assessment and coastal zone management under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The details and the time schedule for setting up the Authority have not yet been finalised.

(d) to (f) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The Scheme is implemented through decentralised 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. As on 29.2.2012, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States in the country to treat an area of 18.69 lakhs ha. since inception of the Scheme in 2002.

Besides NAP, various steps taken to increase the forest cover in the country includes:-

XIIIth Finance Commission has recommended Rs.5000 crores for five years starting from 2010-11 for conservation and development of forests.

Additional Central Assistance of Rs.81.66 crores has been released to the States during 2009-10 for restoration and regeneration of forest cover.

Tree planting is also an approved activity under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and other schemes of Central and State Governments.

The National Mission for a Green India has been launched as one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The Mission focusses on enhancing ecosystem services and carbon sink through afforestation and eco restoration of 10 million ha. of forest and non forest lands over 12th and 13th Plan period.