

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4853  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012  
FUNDS FOR AFFORESTATION PROJECTS  
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

- (a) the total amount of money deposited for afforestation, in lieu of using forest land, and annual interest amount being accrued on it;
- (b) whether the Supreme Court has directed to provide one thousand crore rupees every year for development of forests and providing employment to rural unemployed, out of this interest amount;
- (c) if so, by when the required blue-print in this regard would be prepared;
- (d) whether the Court has also emphasised upon regular monitoring of the scheme; and
- (e) if so, the arrangements being made by the Government in this regard ?

**Answer**

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

(a) The bulk of the funds, after providing for releases already made to State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authorities [State CAMPAs] in the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, received in the form of compensatory levies in lieu of diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is kept in interest bearing term deposits in nationalized Banks as per the details indicated in the Annexure.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide their Order dated 10th July 2009 in IA No.2143 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202 of 1995 titled T N Godavarman Thirumalpad Vs. Union of India and Others observed that substantial amount of funds have been received by the Ad-hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority [CAMPA] and sudden release and utilization of this large sum all at one time may not be appropriate and may lead to improper use without any effective control on expenditure, and considered it appropriate to permit the Ad-hoc CAMPA to release for the time being, the sum of about Rs.1,000 crores per year, for the next 5 years, in proportion of 10% of the principal amount pertaining to the respective State/ Union Territory subject, inter-alia, to the conditions that the amount towards the NPV and the protected areas may be released after the schemes have been reviewed by the State level Executive committee and the Annual Plan of Operation is approved by the Steering Committee and the amount towards the Compensatory Afforestation, Additional Compensatory Afforestation, Penal Compensatory Afforestation and the Catchment Area Treatment Plan may be released in the respective bank accounts of the States/ UTs immediately for taking up site specific works already approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests while granting prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India also ordered that while carrying out the work of utilizing these funds the broad guidelines adopted by the NREGA may be followed and as far as possible work may be allotted mostly to rural unemployed people maintaining the minimum wages level.

(c) Funds have been sanctioned to the State/ UT CAMPAs taking into account the Annual Plans of Operation formulated in this behalf, and considering the overall limit on releases as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their said Order.

(d) & (e) In the said Order dated the 10th July 2009 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India have ordered that an amount of 5% of the amount released to the State CAMPA may also be released and utilized by the National CAMPA Advisory Council, inter-alia, for monitoring and evaluation. A project named "e-Green Watch" [earlier called the Integrated CAMPA Concurrent Monitoring and Evaluation System] has been assigned to the National Informatics Centre for developing a web based package for real time on line monitoring of the schemes financed out of CAMPA funds.