

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6679
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2012
SPREADING ECO AWARENESS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is hosting film screenings, music concerts, puppet shows to create eco-awareness; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the current year and the amount spent in each State including Andhra Pradesh alongwith the action plan prepared for the current Five Year Plan period?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) Yes Madam. Environmental Education, Awareness and Training' is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The awareness activities could be seminars, workshops, training programmes, camps, padayatras, rallies, public meetings, exhibitions, essay/debate/painting/poster competitions, folk dances and songs, street theatre, puppet shows, preparation and distribution of environmental education resource materials etc.

(b) Activities concerning environment and awareness are taken up under :

(i) National Green Corps (NGC) Programme has been catapulted into a mass movement of children for maintaining and preserving the environment. About 99,063 Eco-clubs have so far been established in Schools across the country, out of which 5750 are in Andhra Pradesh. A sum of Rs. 26.52cr was funded for these activities and out of which a sum of Rs. 1.57cr is funded to Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) programme is implemented through providing nominal financial assistance is provided to NGOs, schools, colleges, universities, research institutes, women and youth organisations, army units, government departments etc. from all over the country for conducting awareness raising and action oriented activities. Action components could be plantation of trees, management of household waste, cleaning of water bodies, taking up water harvesting structures, use of energy saving devices etc. Diverse target groups encompassing students, youths, teachers, tribals, farmers, other rural population, professionals and the general public are covered under NEAC.

The programme is implemented through designated Regional Resource Agencies (RRAs) appointed for specific States/Regions of the country. Ministry sanctioned an amount of Rs.12.12Cr to the RRAs for further disbursement among the approved participating organizations.

(iii) 17 organisations were provided financial assistance for conducting seminars/symposia /workshop etc. during 2011-12. Media Cell of the Ministry is mandated with taking up awareness campaigns using print and electronic media besides other mass media to enhance awareness about various environmental issues which would in turn facilitate better compliance with environment regulations.

(iv) Other activities include, Grants-in-Aid to Professional Societies & Institutes; Publication of resource material related to environment; The Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Programme – an international Science and Education programme – provides a unique opportunity to the school students to carry out various measurements so that they can learn about scientific protocols and perform environmental learning activities, which have already been introduced as theory in the textbooks.

Environment Information, Education & Awareness Programme allocation is proposed to be raised from Rs. 295cr during XI Plan to about Rs. 354cr during the XII Plan.