

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:489
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012
AFFORESTATION PROJECTS
Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil

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

- (a) whether a number of voluntary agencies have disappeared after receiving payments for afforestation projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether high level committees have been constituted to look into the irregularities;
- (d) if so, whether the reports of these committees have been presented;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) 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 financial assistance to the Voluntary Organizations (VOs) were provided under the Grants-in-Aid for Greening India scheme on the basis of recommendation of the State Governments which inter-alia envisaged the tree planting by people's participation. The funds were released in three installments. A total of 564 projects were sanctioned to equal number of VOs during 2003-08. While 57 organizations availed all the three installments, 245 availed two installments and remaining 262 VOs came only for first installment. Due to non performance of the VOs, this scheme has been discontinued since 2008-09 and no new projects have been sanctioned to VOs during the last three years.

(c) to (f) At the instance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, high level committees have been constituted in the States to effect investigation, recovery of funds and legal action against defaulting agencies. Action Taken Reports from the States have not so far been received.