GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:229 ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012 SETTING UP OF CAMPA Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

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

- (a) the current arrangements made for compensatory afforestation in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has set up a Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details of the funds available in ad-hoc CAMPA and the quantum of funds released to State CAMPAs, State-wise along with the purpose thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 229 BY SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN REGARDING 'SETTING UP OF CAMPA' DUE FOR REPLY ON 10.12.2012.

- (a) The Central Government while according approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for nonforest purpose inter alia stipulates a condition that the State/Union Territory Government concerned shall realize funds from the user agency for creation and maintenance of compensatory afforestation and transfer the same to the ad-hoc CAMPA.
- (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court by their Order dated 29th October 2002 in Interlocutory Application (IA) No. 566 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202 of 1995 in the matter of T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad versus Union of India and others directed inter-alia that a 'Compensatory Afforestation Fund' shall be created in which all the monies received from the user-agencies towards compensatory afforestation, additional compensatory afforestation, penal compensatory afforestation, net present value of forest land, Catchment Area Treatment Plan Funds, etc. shall be deposited. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in their said order also directed that Union of India shall frame comprehensive rules with regard to the constitution of a body and management of the compensatory afforestation fund. Accordingly, the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and in pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's said order dated 29th October 2002 constituted Compensatory Afforestataion Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) vide order dated 23rd April, 2004.

Taking note that the CAMPA had still not become operational, the Supreme Court of India, vide their Order dated 5th May, 2006 in IA No.1337 with IA Nos. 827, 1122, 1216, 1473 in the above writ petition, ordered, inter-alia, the constitution of the ad-hoc body, viz., the ad-hoc CAMPA till CAMPA becomes operational, and directed that all the State Governments/ Union Territories shall account for and pay the amount collected with effect from 30th October, 2002, in conformity with the order dated 29th October 2002 to the said ad-hoc body. Following persistent requests from State/ Union Territory Governments and public representatives for release of funds from adhoc CAMPA for carrying out compensatory afforestation activities, MoEF in consultation with the State/ UT Governments formulated Guidelines on State CAMPA.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in their order dated 10th July 2009 in I.A. No. 2143 in the above writ petition inter alia directed that the guidelines and the structures of the State CAMPA as prepared by the MoEF may be notified/ implemented. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in their said order dated 10th July 2009 also permitted the ad-hoc CAMPA to release, the sum of about Rs.1,000 crore per year, for the next 5 years, in proportion of 10% of the principal amount pertaining to the respective State/UT. Accordingly, State CAMPAs have been constituted in all concerned State/ Union Territories.

(c) As on 4.12.2012, approx. Rs. 23,930 crore (excluding the interest accrued on the existing/un-matured FDRs) is available with the ad-hoc CAMPA. Funds are released to the State CAMPAs on the basis of the Annual Plans of Operation, and in terms of the State CAMPA Guidelines and the Order dated 10th July 2009 of the Supreme Court of India in IA No. 2143 in the above-mentioned writ petition State/ UT – wise details of the quantum of funds released to State CAMPAs is annexed.