

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:192
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
BIO-DIVERSITY BOARDS IN STATES
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether Bio-diversity Boards have been constituted in all the States under the Biological Diversity Act 2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received complaints regarding the functioning of some of the State Boards including Karnataka;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to re-vitalise the afforestation programmes being implemented in various States including Karnataka?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.192 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02-12-2009 REGARDING BIO-DIVERSITY BOARDS IN STATES BY SHRI P.C.GADDIGOUDAR

(a) & (b) Under the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, so far the State Biodiversity Boards have been constituted in twenty two States. The States are: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Several steps have been taken to revitalise the afforestation programmes implemented in various states including Karnataka. These include: approval of 796 projects of Forest Development Agencies as on 30-10-2009 covering an area of 1.65 million hectares under the National Afforestation Programme; operationalising two new Eco-Task Force (ETF) battalions for eco-restoration of degraded areas in Assam, in addition to supporting the existing four ETF battalions in the country; mooted a new scheme for afforestation involving Panchayati Raj Institutions; various afforestation schemes of the State Governments; tree planting activities under several schemes of the Central Government, notably National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; Greening of six million hectares of degraded forests under the National Mission on Green India, one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change; introduction of a new state plan scheme during 2009-10 on 'Additional Central Assistance for Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover'; and implementation of many externally-aided projects on afforestation of degraded forests in a number of states including Karnataka.