

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2211

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009

STATE FOREST DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Saroj Smt. Sushila

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the ongoing National Afforestation Programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a proposal to constitute State Forest Development Agency (SFDA);
- (d) if so, the purpose of SFDA; and
- (e) the other measures taken by the Union Government to strengthen the National Afforestation Programme?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The Government has approved a proposal to strengthen the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) in which inter-alia the institutional arrangement, fund flow mechanism as well as the cost norms have been streamlined. In addition, two new components, namely, "Training and Capacity Building" and "Value Addition and Marketing of Forest Produce" have been included in the scheme.

(c) & (d) Under the revised Operational Guidelines of the NAP scheme, each programme implementing State/UT will constitute a State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. SFDA will be a federation of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) of the State/UT. The SFDA is envisaged to obtain, scrutinize and approve the proposals of FDAs, send a consolidated State proposal giving FDA-wise details to the Government of India for sanction, receive and disburse the funds to the FDAs as well as monitor the project implementation.

(e) Other initiatives taken by the Union Government to strengthen the NAP include:-

- (i) Transfer of funds to the implementing agencies through Electronic Clearing System (ECS).
- (ii) Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism.