

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:950
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013
STATUS OF AFFORESTATION SCHEME
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of afforestation in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to provide monetary incentives to certain agencies which take interest in such projects;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some of these agencies that had been provided monetary incentives have disappeared without doing any work;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to penalize such agencies so as to serve as a deterrent for others; and
- (f) the action plan to control indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources in the country?

Answer

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

(a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) which is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme for tree plantation and eco restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country through people's participation. As on 31.03.2013, an amount of Rs 3043.74 crore has been released to the States for the treatment of 19.39 lakhs hectare of degraded forest land under NAP Scheme since its inception in 2002. Apart from NAP, afforestation work is also been carried out by other Ministries under schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Bamboo Mission, 13th Finance Commission etc.

(b) No proposal to provide monetary incentives to any agency is under consideration of the Ministry.

(c) (d) & (e) Questions do not arise.

(f) To control indiscriminate exploitation of forest resources in the country, the Ministry provides financial assistance to the State Forest Departments under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Intensification of Forest Management' to strengthen their forest protection machinery by way of infrastructure development, use of modern technology, improved mobility by way of deployment of new field vehicles, improved communication and providing arms and ammunition to the frontline forestry force. The grant under the 13th Finance Commission also have the component for forest protection.