

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:492

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013

COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION MECHANISM

Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

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

- (a) whether the compensatory afforestation mechanism instituted to balance the devastating loss of natural forests has failed abysmally in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year State-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to correct the situation in each State in future?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) the loss of natural forests is regulated in terms of the multi-tier screening process instituted under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 whereby the diversion of forests for non forest purposes is reduced to the minimum taking into account the development imperatives in the country. In order to compensate for the loss of forests, compensatory afforestation is undertaken from out of the levies collected from the user agencies in whose favour forest land has been diverted for non forest use. For this purpose, Guidelines which have been formulated for implementation in all States/ UTs participating in the Scheme of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority have been approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their Order dated 10th July 2009 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202 of 1995 titled TN Godavarman Thirumalpad Vs UOI & Ors. A copy of the Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, together with a copy of the Guidelines, is at Anneuxre 'A'