

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4179
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
AFFORESTATION PROGRAMME BY NGOS
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) Whether any Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has been involved in afforestation programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the additional areas brought under the cover through this programme;
- (d) the revenue earned from forest resources during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop further destruction of forest resources by forest mafia and others, indicating the number of such cases reported during the above period; and
- (f) the efforts being made to bring 33% area of the country under forest cover?

Answer

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

- (a)&(b) Under the Central Sector Scheme 'Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme', discontinued since 2008-09, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) were involved in tree planting.
- (c) No separate assessment of the NGO contribution to forest cover has been carried out by the Ministry.
- (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.
- (e) The primary responsibility of forest protection lies with the respective State/UT Governments. The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides financial assistance to the State/UT Governments through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Intensification of Forest Management Scheme' for strengthening their forest protection machinery with frontline forest force by providing improved communication, mobility, arms and ammunition.
- (f) The efforts to achieve desired forest cover are through National Afforestation Programme, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme; Additional Central Assistance for 'Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover, a new State Plan Scheme; Eco-development Force Scheme, a Central Sector Scheme; NREGS having Afforestation/Tree Planting activities in its schedule of permissible activities and other Central and State Schemes including the externally aided projects.