

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:549
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
MONITORING OF FOREST RELATED SCHEMES
Sonkar Shri Vinod Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of instances of alleged irregularities, negligence and corruption in the implementation of conservation and development of forest related schemes and programmes, if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the action taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise;
- (b) the institutionalised mechanism that exists for monitoring the implementation of schemes and programmes for the conservation and development of forests;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed and evaluated the implementation of these programmes, if so, the details and the outcome thereof including the shortcomings identified and/or constraints noticed in the implementation of such programmes; and
- (d) the follow up action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)(b), (c) and (d) A statement has been laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 549 due for reply on 05.05.2015 by Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar regarding Monitoring of Forest Related Schemes.

(a) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) is primarily implementing three forest related schemes i.e. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) scheme, National Mission for a Green India (GIM) and Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS). While NAP is being implemented for afforestation of degraded forest lands, GIM aims at improving the quality of forest/increase in forest cover besides cross sectoral activities on landscape basis, the IFMS supports the forest protection, development and conservation related activities such as patrolling of the forests, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening of forest infrastructure etc. Under all the above three centrally sponsored schemes, financial assistance is provided by the ministry to the programme states which actually implement them with shared responsibility of monitoring their implementation. No complaint of alleged irregularity or corruption in implementing these schemes has been received in the ministry.

(b) NAP and GIM are implemented in participatory mode under Joint Forest Management (JFM) by involving the local communities in planning, implementation and also monitoring. The guidelines envisage monitoring of NAP & GIM implementation by State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at state level and Forest Development Agency (FDA) at district level. The monitoring of implementation at village level is done by the Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) of the village people. SFDA and FDA also have linkages with the Gram Panchayat and have presidents of JFMCs on board. Social Auditing is also envisaged by the JFMC. The project sites of forestry schemes are also envisaged for monitoring by Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System techniques. Besides, progress of implementation of these schemes is regularly monitored by the ministry by way of Utilization Certificates (UCs), Audited Statement of Accounts (ASAs) and Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) furnished by the States.

(c)& (d) The implementation of NAP has been reviewed during the 11th Plan. The Review Report revealed that NAP has been successful in achieving financial/physical targets, gaining peoples active participation, improving the rural production systems, creating small non forest assets of village utility through entry point activities, generating village employment, empowering & capacity building of local communities, establishing linkages with other line agencies etc. Based on the recommendations of the Review Report, operational guideline of NAP has been revised and implementation of NAP has been further decentralized with the formation of SFDA at the state level. In addition, two new components i.e Training & Capacity Building of local communities and Value Addition & Marketing of forest produce have been included in the scheme. IFMS scheme for the activities taken up in 11th plan has been evaluated by Forest Survey of India and the report interalia emphasizes on training of frontline staff, better record up-keeping and strengthening of internal monitoring mechanism in the states. GIM has been accorded cabinet approval during 2013-14 only.