

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6261
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
DIVERSION OF FUNDS FOR PLANTING TREES
Arunmozhihevan Shri A.

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that as much as Rs.36,000 crore collected from companies to plant trees in lieu of diversion of forest land were not put to best use and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether it is also true that the States are diverting funds for planting trees to meet other expenditure; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Compensatory levies realized from user agencies in lieu of diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are utilized for various purposes including planting of trees as part of the Compensatory Afforestation schemes, management and protection of forest lands and other activities incidental to management of forest and wildlife in terms of the State CAMPA Guidelines approved by the hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide their Order dated 10th July 2009 in WP(C) No.202/1995 titled T N Godavarman Thirumalpad Vs UOI & etc. The releases to States out of these funds have been restricted, in terms of the above Order, which permitted releases of only about Rs.1,000 crores annually during the years 2009-10 to 2013-14 to the States CAMPAs constituted in terms of the Guidelines approved by the said Order. By their judgment dated 12th March 2014, the hon'ble Court have permitted release of 10% of the principal amounts in the credit of the States, to be debited to the accrued interest. The expenditure from out of the funds so released, which now stand at Rs.62380000000.00 (Rs. Six thousand two hundred and thirty eight crores only) has to be undertaken strictly in terms of the State CAMPA Guidelines. The balance at hand in the State CAMPA accounts as of date is about Rs.390000000000.00 (Rs Thirty nine thousand crores only).