

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3905

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014

ECO TASK FORCE

Singh Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan

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

- (a) the number of eco task forces constituted in the country, location and State-wise;
- (b) the number of army personnel absorbed in such eco task forces;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed their performance with their counterparts in the Forests and Environment Department and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the States to constitute such task forces in their respective States , if so, please provide details, if not, the reasons for the same?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b) Presently, there are 08 Eco Task Forces (ETFs) operating in different parts of the country out of which establishment cost of 6 ETFs are being reimbursed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). Details of State-wise location of these ETFs are given in annexure. A total of 2329 retired Army personnel have been reportedly absorbed in the ETF Battalions.

(c) The extent of working area of ETF Battalions is limited as compared to the vast working areas under the State Forest Departments and therefore their performance cannot be compared. The ETFs have been undertaking plantation activities in difficult terrain of the mountains, desert climate characterized by extreme dryness and temperature and disturbed areas. The ETF Battalions have successfully achieved the task of eco-restoration in such areas.

(d) Considering the commendable work done by the ETF Battalions, some State Governments have requested MoEF&CC to financially support them in raising ETF Battalions which could not be considered due to budgetary constraints. However, the State Governments have been encouraged and advised to raise ETF Battalions from their own funding with technical support of the Forest Department as has been done by the States like Delhi, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.