

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 06.12.2010
ANSWERED ON
INCLUSION OF PANCHAYAT REPRESENTATIVES IN JFMC .

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Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar

Will the Minister of COALENVIROMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether instruction have been issued to State Governments to include panchayat representatives in the reconstituted Joint Forests Management Committees (JFMCs);
- (b) whether JFMCs, in Fifth Schedule areas are being advised to ensure compliance with the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996;
- (c) the mechanism put in place in State capitals and in the Ministry for monitoring the implementation of the Government's policies in this regard; and
- (d) whether the Ministry proposes to liaise with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to incorporate evaluation of these measures in the independent periodic "State of the Panchayats" reports being commissioned by that Ministry?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Environment and Forests, after having dialogue with various stakeholders on the functioning of JFMCs in the context of decentralised governance as envisaged by the 73rd Constitution Amendment relating to panchayats and the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996, has given following suggestions to the State Governments vide its letter dated 29.10.2010:-

(i) Existing JFMCs should function under the overall guidance and supervision of the Gram Sabhas and where new JFMCs are to be set up they should be done by the Gram Sabhas.

(ii) JFMCs should be recognised as organs of the Gram Sabha under the relevant state Acts relation to panchayat raj institutions.

(iii) JFMCs should function as Standing Committees of Gram Panchayats for item 6 (social forestry and farm forestry) and item 7 (minor forest produce) listed in the Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution.

(iv) The manner in which the development funds of the JFMCs are used should be approved by the Gram Sabha.

The State Governments were also requested to give due consideration put into effect the above suggestions by appropriate amendments of the relevant State Acts, Rules and Executive Orders relating to both JFMCs and panchayati raj institutions.