

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6625
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2018

National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB)

6625. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

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

- (a) the extent to which the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) has been able to achieve the objectives for which it was set up about 25 years ago;
- (b) the details of special schemes executed in the past and those in progress by the Board;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any mid-term evaluation of the objectives set for the Board to further fine-tune them in view of changed situations; and
- d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) The National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) was set up in August 1992 for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration, eco-development activities and to foster people's participation in afforestation and forest management in the country. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is the major afforestation programme implemented by NAEB for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through participatory approach. An area of over 21 lakh hectares has been sanctioned so far for plantation with an expenditure of about Rs.3779 crore under the programme, since 2000-2001. The major benefits accrued through the scheme are successful afforestation activities in degraded forest land, soil and moisture conservation works, significant impact in improvement of livelihoods, asset creation in villages etc.

As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017, there is a net increase of 6778 sq. km. in the forest cover as compared to the previous assessment of 2015. The increase in forest cover can be attributed to conservation measures or management interventions such as afforestation activities, participation of locals for better protection *etc.* Moreover it is also evident from the successive ISFRs that the forest cover has been stabilized despite biotic pressure for which one of the reasons is the successful implementation of afforestation schemes by NAEB. NAEB through its schemes has thus contributed significantly in sustaining the increase in forest cover and checking forest degradation. It has also successfully institutionalized people's participation in afforestation by establishment and involvement of about 42,000 Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) in various afforestation programmes implemented by NAEB.

- (b) The schemes like Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Project Scheme (IAEPS), Area Oriented Fuel wood and Fodder Projects Scheme (AOFFPS), Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme (NTFPS), Association of ST and rural poor in regeneration of degraded forests on usufruct sharing basis scheme (ASTRPS) were the few schemes implemented in the past by NAEB. The NAP is the ongoing scheme which is being implemented by merging of the above schemes since 2000-01.
- (c) & (d) The schemes implemented by NAEB have been reviewed time to time to fine-tune the objectives of NAEB. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) has been reviewed and is being implemented since 2010-11 under the revised guidelines which *interalia* addresses the concern of forest cover by the use of Quality Planting Material (QPM). The programme is monitored by Remote Sensing & Geographic Information Systems (GIS) using geo-coordinates of NAP plantations and also their periodic independent evaluation.
