Joint Forest Management Committee

2284. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized a two pronged approach to handle the naxal issue by clipping administration wing of forest department in tribal areas to bring a Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) under the purview of the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats, in the scheduled areas of nine States, where the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996; and

(b) if so, details of the working plan including the amount of finance which would be exclusively at the disposal of Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats for every financial year in each of the scheduled areas of nine States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Central Government has been approaching the Naxal issue with the twin objectives of maintaining law and order and taking up developmental activities in the areas affected, by Left wing Extremism (LWE). In these areas, the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and the Gram Sabhas, as envisaged in the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, are to be assigned central role in management of forests and forest products as the JFMCs are co-terminous with Gram Sabhas and have the same general body constitution.

(b) The working plan prescriptions are purely silvicultural and managerial prescriptions and, as such, do not support any funding mechanism. The funding support to various activities taken up in forest areas came from various Plan Schemes as per the approvals accorded by the Planning Commission and the State Planning Boards on year to year basis.

Prevention of illegal trade in animal parts

2285. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the illegal trade in animal parts has become a thriving business in the North Eastern States;