

infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and for that purpose to amend the law relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals. Section 28 of the Act provides as following:

“Nothing contained in this Act shall render it an offence to kill any animal in a manner required by the religion of any community”.

Utilization of funds allocated for afforestation

1744. SHRI MATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of funds allocated for afforestation and the interest accrued on it;
- (b) whether this amount has been used for any other purposes; and
- (c) if so, the amount utilized so far, along with details of regular monitoring of the scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is providing funds to the States under Centrally Sponsored scheme of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forest and adjoining areas through people participation in the country. The scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC) at village level. As on 31.03.2012, an amount of Rs. 2850.36 crore have been released to the States under NAP Scheme since inception of the scheme in 2002. The interest accrued on the amount released, if any, is taken into consideration and adjusted, at the time of subsequent releases.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The operational guidelines of NAP provides for a multi-level monitoring and evaluation mechanism through State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) and Forest Development Agency (FDA) at state and district level respectively. Apart from the monitoring and evaluation by the States, the Ministry commissions independent evaluation of the projects through reputed experts and organizations. Monitoring of project sites by Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System is also provided. The State wise details of funds released under NAP Scheme are given in Statement (*See below*).

Statement

*State-wise details of funds released under NAP scheme
since inception of the scheme in 2002*

Sl.No.	State	Amount Released (Rs. in Crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	110.30
2.	Bihar	46.53
3.	Chhattisgarh	216.52
4.	Goa	0.64
5.	Gujarat	183.82
6.	Haryana	138.70
7.	Himachal Pradesh	65.68
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	66.16
9.	Jharkhand	137.25
10.	Karnataka	178.88
11.	Kerala	55.15
12.	Madhya Pradesh	194.80
13.	Maharashtra	179.37
14.	Odisha	124.48
15.	Punjab	22.37
16.	Rajasthan	60.63
17.	Tamil Nadu	112.02
18.	Uttar Pradesh	240.79
19.	Uttarakhand	83.43
20.	West Bengal	56.57
Total (Other States)		2274.08

Sl.No.	State	Amount Released (Rs. in Crore)
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.21
22.	Assam	79.53
23.	Manipur	77.91
24.	Meghalaya	39.01
25.	Mizoram	132.35
26.	Nagaland	84.58
27.	Sikkim	77.77
28.	Tripura	53.91
Total (NE States)		576.28
GRAND TOTAL		285036

Review of afforestation scheme

1745. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed its afforestation scheme recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) how it would be beneficial to be tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests undertook a performance evaluation of the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme in the year 2009 and also a comprehensive review of NAP guidelines based on the feedback from the implementing States/ stakeholders. Accordingly, the guidelines were revised and operationalised from the year 2010-11 in the States including Andhra Pradesh. The revised guidelines have revamped the decentralized institutional structure and streamlined the fund flow mechanism. In addition, new components namely training, capacity building, value addition and marketing of forest produce have also been focused under NAP to provide the livelihood opportunity to the local community.