(b) The existing legislations/framework/institutional mechanisms are sufficient to mainstream environmental concerns in all planning and development activities. The inclusion of 'Environment' as a concurrent subject in the Constitution is, therefore, not desirable at this stage.

Panchayats Areas Act areas

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

(a) whether Union Government has finalised a 'two pronged' approach to handle the Naxal Issue by clipping the administrative wings of forest Department in tribal areas to bring a Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) under the purview of Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 applies;

(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, on the average, in each of the Scheduled Areas of nine States; and

(c) which are the Scheduled areas and which are the States where Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled) Areas Act, 1996 applies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) No such specific 'two pronged' approach has been finalized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for handling of the Naxal Issues. However, an advisory was issued to the State Governments on 29.10.2010 regarding functioning of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCS) under the overall guidance and supervision of the Gram Sabhas, in the context of the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution relating to Panchayats and of the (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.

(b) Working Plans of Forest Divisions indicate the various activities that can be taken up in forest areas keeping in view the principles of sustainable forest management.

(c) Part C of the Fifth Schedule under Article 244 (1) of the Constitution of India deals with the Scheduled areas. The States where Panchayat (Extension to The Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 applies are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.