

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:133  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000  
VANA RAKSHA SAMITHI  
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Vana Raksha Samithis have shown good potential in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to increase the role of Vana Raksha Samithis;
- (c) the names of States which are implementing this scheme;
- (d) whether the Government propose to extend any financial assistance for such schemes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) to (e) : Yes, Sir. As per the provisions of National Forest Policy, 1988, Government of India on June 1, 1990 issued guidelines to the state governments for involving village samithis and voluntary agencies for protection and regeneration of degraded forest lands. Fresh guidelines have been issued by Government of India in February, 2000 to further strengthen the Joint Forest Management Programme. As per information available, twenty two states have accepted the concept of Joint Forest Management Programme and the same is being implemented by them. The names of the states which have issued resolutions are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The state governments are implementing various central and state plan schemes through these samithis and people's participation is mandatory in all the afforestation schemes of Government of India.