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Title: Need to release balance funds under Annual Work Programme of 2016-17 for creation of new forest and maintenance of plantation areas in Odisha.

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): I would like to state that the Forest and Environment Department of Odisha had proposed the Government of India for Annual Work Programme of 2016-17 with total outlay of Rs. 1800.79 lakh for creation of 1980 hectares of new forest, maintenance of plantation areas over 13240 hectares along with other ancillary works in the State. In this regard, the Central Government has sanctioned only Rs. 700 lakh out of its share of 75% of the total amount which is inadequate for the purpose. I would like to state that the Government of Odisha has also released the share of the State in this regard.

Hence, I would like to request the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to kindly release the balance funds in respect of Central share at the earliest with a view to expedite the Annual Work Programme of 2016-17 for creation of new forest and maintenance of plantation areas in Odisha.