

17.1 Ideally 33% of the land area of the country should be under forest cover and no state should have less than 20% forest cover. In the hill areas, the aim will be to have 60% forest cover. People's participation is a necessary pre-condition for any successful afforestation programme. The local tribal communities are to be conferred with the right to derive full benefit of local forest produce. Special efforts are needed to afforest all degraded and denuded land. Diversion of forest land for non-forest activities should be stopped and forests based industries are to be encouraged to raise their own raw material. Tribals are a part and parcel of forest and they are to be involved in forest management. The National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) is the nodal agency to coordinate and monitor the afforestation programmes. The following four items are monitored under this point:

(i) Quantitative monitored item:

- 1. Tree Plantation

(ii) Qualitative monitored items:

- 1. Survival Rate
- 2. Wasteland Reclaimed
- 3. Hill, Desert and Coastal Vegetation

17.2 The targets for afforestation and tree planting activities taken up under the Twenty Point Programme are set under two mutually exclusive categories, viz., Seedling Distribution for Planting on Private Lands and Area Coverage in respect of Public Lands including Forest Lands.

17.3 **Annual Target and Achievement:-** The targets and achievements during 2003-04 in respect of afforestation/tree planting activities under Twenty Point Programme which includes reclamation of Wastelands, including hill area, deserts, coastal area etc. are as follows:

Sl.No.	Item	"Seedling distribution" (for planting on private land) (in Lakhs)	"Area Coverage" (public land,including forest land) (in hcts.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Target (2003-2004)	8622.00	1071680
2	Achievement	7611.40	844399
3	% Achievement	88	79

17.3.1 The statewide targets and achievements for 2003-2004 are given in *Annexure 17.1* for Seedling Distribution and in *Annexure 17.2* for Area Coverage. For the period under review, performance of *tree plantation* has been 'Very Good' for the States of Chattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, M.P., Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Pondicherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territory of D&N Haveli. The performance of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Meghalaya and Union Territory of A&N Islands has been 'Good'. The rest of the States/UTs have performed 'Poor'. In respect of programmes on *Area Coverage for Public & Forest Lands*, the All-India percentage performance for the period April 2003-March 2004 has been 'Very Good' for the States of Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Kerala, M.P., Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, and union territory of Chandigarh. The performance of the State of Tamil Nadu and Daman Diu has been 'Good'. The performance of rest of the States/UTs has been 'Poor'.

17.4 **Survival Rate** :- Sample check in respect of afforestation efforts in 50 selected districts of the country with appropriate regional distribution, are carried out through independent agencies/experts every year since 1991-92. In respect of plantations of 2000-2001, process has been initiated to undertake sample checks and reports for 19 districts have been received, which indicate survival rate from 39% to 100%. The details are at *Annexure-17.3*. The similar process has been carried out by independent agencies/experts for 21 districts for the year 2000-2001, the survival rate indicates from 7% to 90%. Latest available districts-wise details of survival rate in respect of plantation for 33 districts for the year 2001-2002 carried out through independent agencies/experts are given in statement at *Annexure-17.4*. Overall performance of 33 districts as per independent agencies/expert, the report indicates that in 6 districts, the survival percentage is over 80%. In 16 districts, it is between 60% to 80%. In 4 districts, it is between 50% to 60%. For rest of 7 districts, it is less than 50%. Sample cheks in respect of afforestation/plantation activities undertaken during the year 2001-02 is in progress for 50 selected districts in the country.

17.5 **Wasteland Reclaimed and Hill/Desert/Coastal Vegetation:** One of the major objectives of afforestation and tree planting activities carried out under Twenty Point Programme is reclamation of wastelands in the hill areas, deserts and coastal regions. The achievement figures for 2003-2004 stated above include the wastelands developed in such areas. Sample check in respect of afforestation and tree planting activities in the selected districts of the country, as stated above also include the evaluation of works done to reclaim wastelands including the hill areas, deserts and coastal region.

17.6 **Appraisal of Development/Popular Support/Involvement:** The Government of India issued a circular on June 1, 1990 regarding participation of local communities in protection and development of degraded forest areas. Since then, 27 State Governments have issued the circular /resolution in this regard. There are over 84,632 Forest Protection Committees managing about 14 million hectares of forest land which is about 18% of the forest area of the country. To further consolidate the Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) issued a set of fresh guideline in Feb, 2000 the highlights of which are more representation of women extension of JFM to dense forests and provision of a legal identity to FPCs. This was followed by December 2002 circular, which emphasises on strengthening of the JFM committees under the Integrated Forest Protection Management Scheme of the Ministry & for better coordination with Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Sustainable management of NTFPs.

17.7 The evaluation of plantations reveals that there has been a greater involvement of people in plantation activities and in most cases, right from planting to protection. For the Tenth Five Year Plan, a further decentralized structure for raising plantations through Forest Development Agencies has been put in operation which focusses on:- (i) people-centric approach for regeneration and rejuvenation of degraded forests and forest-fringe areas through convergence of Centrally sponsored afforestation schemes of Ministry under the umbrella of National Afforestation Programme (NAP); (ii) Institutionalization of decentralized set up of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) as a confederation of village level Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs); (iii) Constitution of FDAs- In all 814-territorial/wild life forest divisions in all states in the phased manner; (iv) Till the year 2003-04, 511 FDAs have been constituted in 28 states to treat an area of 7.61 lakh hectares during 10th Plan. (v) 14 projects have been sanctioned in North East States under NAP rehabilitation of Jhum lands.