

M-11015/118/2018-CB
Government of India
Ministry of Panchayati Raj

11th Floor, Jeevan Prakash Building,
K. G. Marg, New Delhi
Dated : 8th June, 2018

To

Principal Secretaries / Secretaries
Panchayati Raj Department of all States and UTs

Subject : Activities relating to plantations by Panchayati Raj Institutions

Sir / Madam,

I am directed to say that in recent times, several problems are being faced particularly in rural areas on account of shrinkage of water resources, soil erosion and climatic fluctuations. These problems have increased over the years warranting immediate remedial measures. One of the major remedial measures in this regard relates to tree plantation activities aimed at increasing the tree cover in rural areas.

2. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as Institutions of local governance, are one of the main stakeholders of this regard, and can play an important role to mitigate the problem. PRIs can generate extensive awareness amongst people about the benefits of tree plantation as well as take up a campaign for tree plantation within their respective areas during the approaching monsoon period. This will have not only contribute positively to the environment and micro-climate within their respective areas, but also for the overall environmental amelioration in the country. Besides, the local population can also benefit in terms of valuable fruits, fodder, fuelwood and small timber etc. Such plantations can also be contribute for Own Source of Revenue for the Panchayats. Such plantations can also be developed as "Smriti Van" so as to develop a sense of ownership in the village.

3. It is therefore requested to please advise the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in your State to take up extensive tree plantation activities during the upcoming monsoon in Panchayat lands, along roads, canals, and ponds, in the vicinity of Panchayat Bhawan, as also available public land or wasteland. Some of the multipurpose fruit tree species that may be considered for plantation include Jackfruit, Drumstick, Anwla, Guava and Banana etc. as these can supplement nutritional needs, especially for the children, pregnant women and for the poor and vulnerable groups.

Action taken in the matter may kindly be intimated to this Ministry.

Yours Faithfully


(Sanjay Kumar Upadhyay)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
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