



## **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS WELCOMES RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIRTEENTH FINANCE COMMISSION**

*New Delhi, March 10, 2010*

The Minister of State for Environment & Forests (I/C), Mr Jairam Ramesh, today welcomed the Report of the Thirteenth Finance Commission (TFC), which has made several significant recommendations related to environment & forests in its report.

**TFC, in its report, has recommended an amount of Rs. 5000 crore as forest grant for the award period 2010-2015.** Grants for the first two years are untied and the Commission has recommended that priority should be given to the preparation of working plans. Release of grants for the last three years is linked to progress in the number of approved working plans. These grants are over and above the non-plan revenue expenditure on forestry and wildlife. The Report notes: “Our environmental grants both reward past actions and incentivise future actions. The forest grant that we recommend is essentially a reward for contributing to the ecology and bio-diversity of India, as well as a compensation to states for the opportunity loss on account of keeping areas under forest.” The grant allocations for each state is provided in Appendix I.

**In addition, the TFC has recommended fourteen of State-specific Grants related to environment and forests, with a total outlay of Rs 2,063 crore.** A full list of State-specific Grants is provided in Appendix II.

**The TFC has also recommended that the MoEF shall assign to the Forest Survey of India the task of developing a uniform inventory design for information on growing stock and related parameters** like bio-diversity and Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP). This would help bring clarity to the role of the country’s forest wealth in climate change mitigation and also help to base fiscal transfers on more robust parameters in future.

Welcoming the TFC Report, Minister Jairam Ramesh noted: “It is for the first time that a Finance Commission has given such importance to environment and forests in its recommendations. That the Commission has taken such a sensitive perspective on the environment and forests is particularly heartening. The recommendations are deeply thought out, generous and fair. They will make a major contribution in ensuring that the Centre and States work in symmetry towards the goal of sustainable development. I would like to sincerely thank the Chairman of the TFC, Dr Vijay Kelkar, and his team for their stellar work.”



Appendix-I

**Grants-in-Aid for Forests**

Sl.No.	State	2010-15 (Rs. crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	268.64
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	727.84
3.	Assam	184.64
4.	Bihar	38.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	411.12
6.	Goa	36.88
7.	Gujarat	81.92
8.	Haryana	8.80
9.	Himachal Pradesh	100.64
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	133.04
11.	Jharkhand	151.44
12.	Karnataka	221.04
13.	Kerala	135.52
14.	Madhya Pradesh	490.32
15.	Maharashtra	309.60
16.	Manipur	150.32
17.	Meghalaya	168.08
18.	Mizoram	171.20
19.	Nagaland	138.56
20.	Orissa	330.96
21.	Punjab	9.20
22.	Rajasthan	88.32
23.	Sikkim	40.56
24.	Tamil Nadu	142.48
25.	Tripura	95.52
26.	Uttar Pradesh	80.48
27.	Uttarakhand	205.44
28.	West Bengal	79.04
<b>Total</b>		<b>5000.00</b>



## Appendix II: State-Specific Grants

<u>State</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Andhra Pradesh	For strengthening Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board by providing air and water monitoring equipment and the Capital cost of establishing monitoring systems	Rs.20 crore
Goa	For installation of sea barricades to enhance tourist safety.	Rs.100 crore
Gujarat	To address the problem of 10.69 lakh hectares of land in more than 600 coastal villages which have been affected due to ingress of salinity.	Rs.150 crore
	To tackle the menace of coastal erosion Faced by about 450 fishing villages	Rs.150 crore
	For development of Bruhad Gir area Including support for protection of the Gir Lions, maintenance of eco-tourism facilities& Environment protection	Rs.48 crore
Jammu &Kashmir	For protection and reinforcement of Tawi Front to protect the river from pollution, Improve drinking water supply and prevent damage to property during floods.	Rs.25 crore
	For management of intervention measures for Wullar Lake which is the biggest fresh water lake in Asia and the first Ramsar site declared in the State.	Rs.120 crore
Kerala	For implementing the Kuttanad Development Package which aims at strengthening the Ecological security of the Kuttanad wetland Eco-system	Rs.300 core
Maharashtra	For taking up 110 anti-sea erosion bund works in six districts	Rs.205 crore



<u>State</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Orissa	For consolidation and strengthening of Echo Restoration of Chilika Lake which is the largest brackish water lagoon in Asia	Rs.50 crore
Tamil Nadu	To protect the long coastline of the state from sea erosion	Rs.200 crore
	To implement Marine Discharge Project as a permanent solution to effluent discharge from the bleaching, dyeing and processing units	Rs.200 crore
Uttar Pradesh	For development of ghats and kunds	Rs.45 crore
West Bengal	For strengthening alongwith armouring of riverside slope of embankments of the most vulnerable portions in the Sunderban region	Rs.450 crore

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