

Theme: AFFORESTATION

Failure of a scheme for increasing tree cover (*Paragraph 2.1*)

Audit findings

National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) released ₹47.03 crore to Voluntary Agencies (VAs) and State Forest Departments (SFDs)/Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) for implementing 647 afforestation projects. Audit observed that only 3.57 *per cent* of the projects sanctioned to VAs and 23 *per cent* of the projects sanctioned to SFDs/FDAs could be completed. As these agencies did not come back to NAEB for release of further installments, the possibility of misutilisation/fraud could not be ruled out. More than 93 *per cent* of the projects did not achieve their targeted objectives; thereby seriously impacting the efforts to increase tree cover in India.