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T. R. BAALU

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मंत्री
पर्यावरण एवं वन
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली-110003
MINISTER
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI-110003

D.O. NO. 22-8/2000-FPD

February 10, 2000

Hon'ble Chief Minister,

Forests play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance and in the socio-economic development of a developing country like India. They are an important resource base for meeting subsistence needs of the rural poor especially the tribals and forest dwellers. Due to tremendous biotic pressure, our precious forest resources have degraded in most of the parts of our country. For the protection and regeneration of these degraded forest lands, Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme has emerged as an important initiative. So far twenty two State Governments have adopted resolutions for implementing the JFM programme and about 10.24 million ha. of forest lands are being managed under this programme through 36075 JFM committees in the country.

Government of India is reviewing implementation of JFM programme in view of several emerging issues. It has been noted that the JFM committees are not provided with legal backup after their constitution. In order to strengthen the programme, it is necessary that all the JFM committees are registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. This will not only provide legal backup to the committees but will also make them more responsive. Necessary action may kindly be taken in this regard and I would appreciate if this process is completed by the 31st March, 2000.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

T. R. Baalu
(T. R. BAALU)

To

The Chief Ministers
All the States

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