

जयराम रमेश  
JAIRAM RAMESH



D.O.No...1-50...MOS (I/C) E & F/10  
राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
पर्यावरण एवं वन  
भारत सरकार  
नई दिल्ली-110003  
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI - 110 003

29<sup>th</sup> October 2010

*Dear Shri Yeddyurappa ji -*

You are well aware that joint forest management committees (JFMCs) have played an important role in forest conservation, regeneration and management in different states of the country.

Responding to concerns raised in many quarters, I have been having a dialogue with various stakeholders on the functioning of JFMCs in the context of decentralised governance envisaged by and embodied in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of 1993 relating to panchayats and of the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996.

Certain strong conclusions have emerged clearly from these interactions.

1. Existing JFMCs should function under the overall guidance and supervision of the Gram Sabhas and where new JFMCs are to be set up they should be done by the Gram Sabhas.
2. JFMCs should be recognised as organs of the Gram Sabha under the relevant state Acts relating to panchayat raj institutions.
3. JFMCs should function as Standing Committees of Gram Panchayats for item 6 ( social forestry and farm forestry) and item 7 ( minor forest produce) listed in the Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution.
4. The manner in which the development funds of the JFMCs are used should be approved by the Gram Sabha.

I would request you to give these suggestions due consideration and put them into effect by appropriate amendments of the relevant State Acts, Rules and Executive Orders relating to both JFMCs and panchayati raj institutions.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely

*Jairam Ramesh*  
(Jairam Ramesh)

Shri B.S.Yeddyurappa  
Chief Minister  
Government of Karnataka