

Eco-Development Forces

Ecological Task Forces (ETFs) Scheme was initiated by the Ministry of Defence in 1982 with a view to securing involvement of ex-servicemen in afforestation and eco-development in remote and difficult areas to undertake restoration of degraded ecosystems through afforestation, soil conservation and water resource management techniques. The scheme also serves as a mechanism to rehabilitate the ex-servicemen for productive work and to create employment for retired army personnel mainly in the rural areas. The Scheme has been in operation for last four Five Year Plans. Therefore, the basic requirements with regard to procedural and financial aspects stand fulfilled.

At present there are 4 (Four) Eco-Task Force Battalions raised with the Regular and Territorial Army Personnel. These are as follows:-

S.No.	TA Bn. Id No.	Year of Raising	Location
1.	127 Inf Bns	1981	Shivalik Hills
2.	128 Inf Bns	1981	Rajasthan Canal (Bajju)
3.	130 Inf Bns	1988	State of J&K
4.	130 Inf Bn	1994	Pithoragarh (Uttranchal)

The progress of the Eco- Task Force (ETF) Battalions is being closely reviewed jointly by Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Environment and Forests. Proposal for establishment of new ETF Battalions in Assam, Jharkhand and Karnataka are being examined.

A sum of Rs. 10.00 Crores under Rest of India is proposed under the scheme for the year 2006-07. This Scheme is operated by the Ministry of Defence, NAEB only facilitates the Scheme.