

**Rural development dept  
focuses on work not talk**

To the delegates of a national consultation on PPP in forest produce last week, the department of rural development presented the background paper charting the idea of the conference to scale up the ground successes and forge

partnerships. It even highlighted, to the attention of activists and some officials who like to talk, "No theory, please". With government spending lakhs on conferences in star hotels and meetings ending up in nothing more than some networking and some rhetoric, the caution provided is something other departments could replicate. When asked for his concluding remarks, Jairam Ramesh, whose hands-on approach all through surprised UNDP officials, partnering the consultation, said, "It is already conveyed. But for the overall benefit, I would repeat the deadlines for mission ahead."