

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding withdrawal of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on Kendu (Tendu) leaves.

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT): Kendu (Tendu) leaf, a Minor Forest Produce (MFP), is major source of income for millions of tribals. Tribal pluckers, binders and seasonal workers procure Kendu leaves and sell these products as part of their right under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The tribals have the right to procure and sell the products.

Imposition of 18% GST on Kendu leaves is majorly impacting Kendu leaves trade and the livelihoods of poor seasonal dependent tribals. I Would urge upon the Government to withdraw the imposition of 18% GST on Kendu leaves for the larger interest of poor tribal communities.