

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:221

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2006

SALE OF TRIBAL PRODUCTS

Athawale Shri Ramdas;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has reviewed the working of the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED);
- (b) If so, the achievements made by the TRIFED during each of the last three years; State-wise;
- (c) Whether the TRIFED provide assistance for the sale of products made by the tribals;
- (d) If so, the details thereof including the assistance provided during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) The steps taken by the Government with a view to ensuring that the tribals get remunerative prices for their products?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.221 for answer on 8.8.2006 by Shri Sugrib Singh and Shri Ramdas Athawale regarding `Sale of Tribal Products`.

(a) Yes, Sir. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) engaged a firm of private consultants in the year 2002 for conducting a diagnostic study and preparing an operational plan, including restructuring of the organisation for improving its functioning and performance. On the basis of the diagnostic study, the consultants had recommended a change in the role of TRIFED from an agency for procurement and trading in minor forest produce to marketing development activities. TRIFED accordingly reoriented its activities in the year 2002-03 to play the role of a service provider and marketing developer of tribal products.

TRIFED has started shifting the focus of its activities from mere trading of tribal products to actual market development activities after July, 2002. The Bye-laws of TRIFED were also amended accordingly. The new Bye-laws clearly define its objectives and role as a service provider to its member societies.

(b), (c) & (d) The details of assistance given by TRIFED, State-wise for purchase of tribal products in the last three years and the sales made by TRIFED year-wise are at ANNEXURE.

(e) In order to ensure that the tribals are benefited by way of fair purchase procedures, TRIFED has issued strict guidelines to its field offices for purchase of products only from individual tribal artisans/tribal groups, NGOs, Cooperative State Federations etc. at a remunerative price. The main objective of this mechanism is to ensure maximum benefit to the tribal artisans without involving middlemen.

TRIFED is also acting as an agency for expanding the market for tribal products by obtaining bulk orders for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items. These items are supplied after ensuring remunerative prices to tribal producers.