

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3481
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2010
MINOR FOREST PRODUCE
Namdhari Shri Inder Singh

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Act to give tribals the right to exploit Minor Forest Produce (MFP) has been enacted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the manner in which the Government is contemplating to protect the rights of the tribals in this matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Parliament has enacted the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. Section 3 of the Act specifies the forest rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers that are to be recognized and vested under the Act. The right of ownership, access to collect, use, and dispose of minor forest produce which has been traditionally collected within or outside village boundaries is also one of the forest rights specified in the said Section.

(c): In view of reply to parts (a) & (b) above, this question does not arise.