

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:490
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012
MSP FOR MINOR FOREST PRODUCE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has proposed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce;
- (b) if so, the number of persons/tribals who would get benefit once MSP is fixed for minor forest produce; and
- (c) time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):

- (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is the nodal and administrative Ministry for operationalization the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor forest Produce (MFP) and the Ministry has in April 2012, proposed a scheme for "Introduction of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor forest Produce (MFP)". It is also proposed for constitution of a Central Price Fixation Commission for MFP as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for operationalization of the MSP Scheme for 13 important identified MFPs.
- (b) As per the proposal of the Scheme an estimated 100 million people derive their source of livelihood from collection and marketing of MFPs. The Scheme would hence have huge social dividend for MFP gatherers, majority of whom are tribals and other traditional forest dwellers.
- (c) The modalities of scheme for introducing MSP for MFP is being worked out by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Scheme is proposed to be introduced with effect from 01-01-2013.