

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1259
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012
LIVELIHOOD BASED ON FOREST
Vardhan Shri Harsh;Yadav Shri Dinesh Chandra

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether earning livelihood based on forest is becoming difficult for the tribals in the country over the last few years;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to share the forest land with tribals to preserve and to provide livelihood to these tribals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MAHADEO SINGH KHANDELA)

(a) & (b): Minor Forest Produce provides essential food, nutrition, medicinal needs and also cash income to the large number of tribal who are living in and around the forest. However, the Minor Forest Produce economy provides poor returns to gatherers.

The issue of providing fair price to the gatherers for the Minor Forest Produce has engaged the attention of the Government in recent years. Government has enacted the Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers" (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, (FRA) 2006. This Act, inter alia, provides right of ownership, access to collect, use & disposal of Minor Forest Produce which has been traditionally collected within or outside the village boundaries. To ensure fair prices to Minor Forest Produce gatherers, there is a provision to give grants-in-aid to the State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce operations for which Rs. 20 Crores has been provided in current year's budget.

(c) to (e): The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 seeks to vest the forest rights on forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations. These rights include right to access to collect, use and dispose of the Minor Forest Produce. One of these forest rights also relates to their right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use.