

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3285  
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012  
EXPLOITATION OF M.F.P. BY TRIBALS  
Namdhari Shri Inder Singh

**Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the tribals are in dilemma with regard to their right to exploit Minor Forest Produce (MFP) vis-à-vis a judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court (SC) debaring them from availing MFP without the prior permission of SC;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the rights of tribals?

**Answer**

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

- (a) to (c): No such judgment has been received in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs debaring gathering of MFP by tribals.
- (d): Vide provision contained in section 3(1) (c) of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers have the right of ownership, access to collect, use and dispose of minor forest produce which has been traditionally collected within or outside village boundaries.