

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3371
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012
MSP OF MEDICINAL PLANTS
Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to assure Minimum Support Price (MSP) to minor forest produce including medicinal plants so as to encourage farmers to take up cultivation of such plants on a larger scale;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof;
- (c) whether the State Governments have urged the Union Government for procurement of medicinal plants through the Government's Medicinal Plant Farms and Herbal Medicine Corporation Limited in the event of prices in open market going below MSP; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken along with the guidelines issued by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per the provision of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, 'Minor Forest Produce' includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin including bamboo, brush wood, stumps, cane, tussar, cocoons, honey, wax, lac, tendu or tendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tubers and the like. However, Dr. T. Haque Committee constituted by M/o Panchayati Raj to look into aspects of Minimum Support Price (MSP), Value addition and marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) in Fifth Schedule Areas, had made certain recommendations about Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the Minor Forest Produce (MFP). Based on these recommendations and to ensure remunerative returns to MFP gatherers, a Central Sector Scheme of MSP for MFP has been contemplated. However, details of such a scheme have not been worked out as yet.

(c) & (d): No such proposal has been received from State Governments so far as Ministry of Tribal Affairs is concerned.