

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4478

ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012

MINOR FOREST PRODUCE

Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh;Punia Shri P.L.

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to protect Minor Forest Produce (MFP) from market fluctuations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the major recommendations of the MFP Committee with respect to development of competitive market for MFP and capacity building of MFP gatherers; and
- (d) the measures taken to increase production and expand the market opportunities for these goods?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The issue of providing fair price to the gatherers for the MFPs and economically empowering the forest dwellers and the tribals in particular has engaged the attention of the Government in recent years. Dr. T. Haque Committee was constituted by Ministry of Panchayati Raj to look into aspects of Minimum Support Price (MSP), Value addition and marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) in Fifth Schedule Areas. On the basis of the recommendations of the committee, a Central Sector Scheme of Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce has been contemplated.

(c): The Committee, inter alia, recommended that strategic government intervention is necessary in the form of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for selected Minor Forest Produce. Further, the Committee recommended setting up of a "National Minor Forest Produce Price Commission", strengthening of the "Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India, Ltd. (TRIFED)", strengthening of State Government Agencies, accountability to Gram Sabha of all Corporations/Federations that undertake MSP operations, amending the laws reflecting clearly the ownership of MFPs by the Gram Sabha etc.

(d): The details of the scheme have not been worked out.