

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2305  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2012  
SKILL IMPROVEMENT OF TRIBALS  
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of a large number of communities in tribal areas possessing specialized handicraft and handloom skills which can improve their livelihood significantly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether lack of reliable and high quality power supply poses a serious challenge to the small enterprises run by members of these communities;
- (d) whether renewable energy sources that are abundantly available in tribal areas offer a unique opportunity to address the above challenge;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SMT. RANEE NARAH)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c): Handicraft and handloom products manufactured by the tribals are regularly marketed by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) through Tribal Artisan Melas and other outlets. Training and development facility in this regard is also being provided to the tribals by TRIFED.

As reported by TRIFED, lack of reliable and high quality power supply is at present not posing problem in making of handicraft and handloom products by small enterprises run by members of these communities.

(d) to (f): As reported by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, various locally available renewable energy sources such as solar, biomass, micro hydel can be effectively utilized to meet power/energy requirements in remote and tribal areas. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy have also reported that they are giving subsidy of Rs.3500 to 10,000 per biogas plant depending upon its capacity and 30% of cost of solar systems to promote them in rural areas including tribal areas.