

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4283
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013
BAN ON MINOR FOREST PRODUCE
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of banning of minor forest produce, the only medium of livelihood for the tribal dominated population of the Kaimur forest area in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether ban on the livelihood of forest dwellers has led the people to extreme poverty and starvation making them extremism oriented;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government to lift the ban; and
- (e) the other alternative sources of livelihood provided by the Government to wean them away from extremism and bring them into the mainstream of development?

Answer

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

(a)& (b): The Kaimur forest areas in Bihar include the protected forest and Kaimur wild life Sanctuary areas. As per the provision of the wild life protection Act, 1972, entry into the wild life Sanctuary except the permission from the chief wildlife warden is restricted. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide dated 14th February 2000 had also prohibited collection of Non- Timber Forest Products (NTFP). The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2002 (section 29) has also imposed ban on removal/collection of fallen, dead and diseased tree and even blade of single grass from the National Park and wildlife sanctuary.

As per the circular no.1881 dated 03.07.2004 of the Department of Environment and Forest, the Panchayat were allowed to collect, store and transport the minor forest produce (within the prescribed limit) from the Protected Forests. But the provision was not applicable to Kaimur Wild Life Sanctuary area.

(c)to (e): The minor forest produce are the additional source of livelihood for the people living inside the Kaimur Forest area. The people of the Kaimur plateau involve in the agricultural activities in their own land and work as agricultural labor in the plain areas also. Majority of the people living in the Kaimur Plateau are having agricultural land for their livelihood. The Forest department never imposed ban on their livelihood. The Hon'ble Supreme Court ban only restricts entry in the sanctuary area; it does not restrict their agricultural land or livelihood.

Implementation of various schemes like Integrated Watershed Development Programme, implementation of MNREGA Programme and some other also provide vocational training, bank loans and creating basis infrastructure for the tribal population of the area.