

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:287

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009

MINOR FOREST PRODUCE

Mahato Shri Narahari; Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the schemes/guidelines which regulate Minor Forest Produce in each State of the country including West Bengal;
- (b) the details of Minor Forest Produce in each State including West Bengal;
- (c) the funds given to each State for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the achievements made during the above period; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to give minimum support price for the Minor Forest Produce in each State including West Bengal?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.287 by Shri Manohar Tirkey and Shri Narahari Mahato due for reply on 09-12-2009.

(a) There is no scheme of Ministry of Environment & Forests for regulation of Minor Forest Produce in various States and Union Territories. Management of Minor Forest Produce, which is also titled 'Non-Timber Forest Products' is done through the Working Plan prescriptions of various territorial forest division in State/UTs and the guidelines laid down in National Forest Policy for protection, improvement and enhancement of MFPs in the generation of income and employment for the tribal.

However, for West Bengal, the members of Forest Protection Committees have been given the right to collect Minor Forest Produce free of royalty without causing any damage to forest for their bonafide use on the basis of approved microplans excluding protected areas. In case of Tendu leaves & sal seed, collection & selling rights have been given to West Bengal Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation Ltd.

- (b) The details of Minor Forest Produce in each State are given in Annexure-I.

(c) & (d) There is no scheme for funding of Minor Forest Produce by Ministry of Environment & Forests. However, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India is having a Central Sector Scheme 'Grant-in Aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCCs) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Operations'. The details of the scheme and State wise and Year wise funds released under the scheme are given in Annexure-II.

- (e) No Policy has been formulated by Government of India in this regard including West Bengal.