

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1798
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013
PRODUCTION OF MINOR FOREST PRODUCE
Pandey Saroj;Singh Shri Mahabali

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to increase the production of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and to develop its collection and distribution system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the financial assistance allocated/released to the States under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise?

Answer

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

(a): No Scheme has been formulated by the Ministry to increase production of Minor Forest Produce (MFP). However, scientific harvesting, primary value-addition, storage along with Research & Development efforts with regard to MFP is being supported through a Central Sector Scheme of 'Grants-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCCs) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Operations'.

The Government has also recently approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of value Chain for MFP". To start with, the Scheme is being implemented in eight States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Gujarat for 12 MFP namely, (i) Tendu, (ii) Bamboo (iii) Mahuwa Seed (iv) Sal Leaf (v) Sal Seed (vi) Lac, (vii) Chironjee, (viii) Wild Honey (ix) Myrobalan (x) Tamarind (xi) Gums (Gum Karaya) and (xii) Karanj which are not nationalized by the State Government concerned.

The Scheme seeks to establish a system to ensure fair monetary returns for the MFP they collect by fixing Minimum Support Price. It also supports primary value-addition of MFP, provides for supply chain infrastructure like cold storage, warehouses etc. and emphasizes on scientific harvesting of MFP.

(b) : The details of financial assistance allocated/ released to the States under the Central Sector Scheme of 'Grants-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCCs) during each of the last three years and the current year is at Annex.