

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2678
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
PROMOTION OF FOREST PRODUCE
Pandey Saroj

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to promote forest produces and to develop their collection and distribution system in newly created States such as Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the total financial allocation made for these States under this plan during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) if not, whether the Government has any proposal to make any such plan to promote economic development of tribal persons living in these areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) The Ministry has taken initiatives including afforestation for promotion of forest produce. Afforestation in the country is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Bamboo Mission (NBM), 13th Finance Commission and also under different State Plan/ Non- Plan Schemes including externally aided projects. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country through people's participation. An amount of Rs.2500 crores has been approved for NAP in the 12th Five Year Plan. The details of funds released during last three years from 2010-11 to 2012-13 are given in Annexure-I. Under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), the Central Sector Scheme 'Grants -in-Aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCCs) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Operations' supports scientific harvesting, primary value addition, storage along with Research and Development efforts with regards to Minor Forest Produce. The details of funds allocated State wise including Chhattisgarh during last three years are given in Annexure-II.

(c)&(d) The Government has 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 MFPs namely, Tendu , Bamboo , Mahuwa Seed, Sal Leaf, Sal Seed, Lac, Chironjee, Wild Honey, Myrobalan, Tamarind, Gums (Gum Karaya) and Karanj which are not nationalised by the State Government concerned. The scheme seeks to establish a system to ensure fair monetary returns 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.