

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:124
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013
MINOR FOREST PRODUCTS
Dhurve Jyoti

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the scheme being implemented by the Government to regulate Minor Forest Products (MFP) in the country including the details of MFP and the funds released /utilised under the scheme, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to include more forest products under the MFP;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure Minimum Support Price to MFP?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V.KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 124 for 13.12.2013 regarding Minor Forest Products.

(a): The Government has recently launched 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". The scheme has been designed as one of the social safety measures for the Minor Forest Produce (MFP) gatherers, who are primarily members of Scheduled Tribe. It seeks to establish a system to ensure fair monetary returns for their efforts in collection, primary, processing, storage, packaging, transportation and also seeks to get them a share of revenue from the sales proceeds with costs deducted.

Another scheme implemented by the Ministry to support MFP is the Central Sector Scheme 'Grants- in-Aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCCs) etc. for MFP Operations' which was launched during 1992-93. This Ministry extends Grants-in-Aid to the STDCCs/ Forest Development Corporations (FDCs) etc. for:-

- i) Increasing the quantum of MFP handled by setting off operational losses, if need be;
- ii) Setting up of scientific warehousing facilities, wherever necessary;
- iii) Establishing processing industries for value addition with the objective of ensuring maximum returns on the MFPs for the tribals;
- iv) Supplementing Research & Development (R&D) efforts.

The details of fund released/utilized under the scheme 'Grants-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCCs) etc. for MFP Operations' during the last three years are at annex.

(b) & (c): The scheme Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of value Chain for MFP has been launched this year for implementation in eight states having Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribe population in accordance with the fifth schedule of the Constitution i.e. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. The Scheme initially covers (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. Review of the list of MFPs to be covered under the scheme would be undertaken during its midterm evaluation of the scheme.

(d): The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for MFP would be recommended by a pricing cell constituted in TRIFED, a multi state co-operative society under the aegis of the Ministry. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will approve and announce state-wise MSP for MFP. Designated state agencies shall buy the MFP from the collectors on MSP. However, the gatherers are free to sell MFP either in the open market or to the designated agency.