

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4694
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2014
DEREGULATION OF KENDU LEAF TRADE
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to deregulate Kendu leaf trade which provides employment to many persons particularly in Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the extent to which the deregulation of Kendu leaf trade would have implications on the traders and workers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

- (a): Odisha produces about 4.4 lakh quintals of Kendu Leaf (KL) annually, which includes 3.5 lakh quintal of processed KL, 0.8 lakh quintals of Phal and 0.1 lakh growers KL. About Rs. 131.00 crores of Rupees are being paid to KL pluckers. The number of KL pluckers is of the order of 8 lakhs.
- (b): About 20,000 skilled man power are engaged annually for processing and binding of the KL and are paid about Rs.36 crores as wages. Annually an amount of Rs. 18.26 crores Rupees is being paid for bush cutting operation which generates about 10.70 lakh man-days.
- (c): Government of Odisha on experimental basis introduced deregulation of KL trade in Nabarangpur KL division w.e.f 2013 crop year and in Malkangiri district w.e.f. 2014 crop year. In Nabarangpur KL division 100% KL pluckers sold their KL to departmental procurement center of Government of Odisha, instead of Private traders. In Malkangiri district KL pluckers largely preferred to sell their KL to department procurement center instead of traders. As reported by the District Administration about 78% of the production of KL has been sold to department while balances 22% have been sold to traders i.e. Buyers.