

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1236
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2020

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE

1236. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Non-Timber Forest Produce collection by the Tribal Groups is getting hampered due to shrinking forests and climate change;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to support their livelihood;
- (c) the steps taken to eliminate middle men in collection of Non-Timber Forest Produce from the Tribal Groups;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of the challenges being faced by the tribal communities living in the coastal regions of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SMT. RENUKA SINGH SARUTA)

(a)& (b): As per 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR 2019)' released by Ministry of Environment on December 30, 2019, total forest and tree cover of the country is 807,276 square kilometres (i.e. 24.56 percent of the geographical area of the country) which witnessed an increase by 5,188 sq. km. of forest and tree cover combined, at the national level, as compared to the previous assessment reported in 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR 2017)' i.e. 802,088 sq km (24.39 percent). Similarly, an increase of forest and tree cover combined was witnessed as per ISFR 2017 by 8,021 sq. km. compared to the data in ISFR 2015. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not received any formal assessment of hampering Non-Timber Forest Produce collection from the State Governments.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing schemes 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP', 'Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Produce' and 'Equity Support to National Scheduled Tribe Finance Development Corporation (NSTFDC) / State Tribal Finance Development Corporation (STFDC), wherein funds are provided to support livelihood improvement of STs involved in NTFP collection.

(c): The scheme 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP' is aimed at elimination of middleman through providing MSP to MFPs. Further, under the Scheme, the concept of establishment of Vandhan Vikas Kendra has been conceived to tap into the traditional knowledge and skill sets of tribal people by adding technology and Information Technology for upgradation of output at each stage and protecting the gains of their labour and knowledge which are otherwise reaped by the long chain of middlemen.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (d) above.
