

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4293
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2021

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

4293: SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made an assessment of the impact of COVID 19 and the lockdown on tribal communities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the tribal population and districts affected by COVID-19;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the measures undertaken by the Ministry to address problems faced by tribal communities because of COVID-19 and the lockdown as a result thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs had assessed district wise confirmed COVID 19 cases for 177 tribal dominated Districts based on the data mapped in the website <https://pracriti.iitd.sc.in/> a dynamic dashboard which has been developed and maintained by a group of volunteers from M3RG of IIT Delhi. It was observed that about 3% of total confirmed cases in the country were from 177 tribal dominated districts till June, 2020.

(d) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken up the following proactive measures to lessen the adverse effects on tribal community during the Covid-19 pandemic-

- On request of this Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs vide Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 16/04/20 issued guidelines aiming to relax the provisions of lockdown for Collection, harvesting and processing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP)/ Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) by STs and other forest dwellers in forest areas across the country.
- The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs wrote letters to Chief Ministers of 15 States to sensitize respective State Nodal Agencies for undertaking procurement of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) in right earnest. These States include Uttar Pradesh; Gujarat; Madhya Pradesh; Karnataka; Maharashtra; Assam; Andhra Pradesh; Kerala; Manipur; Nagaland; West Bengal; Rajasthan; Odisha; Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.
- Amid COVID-19 situation, MoTA revised the minimum support price (MSP) for minor forest produce and also added 37 new items under the MFP list taking the total number of MFPs under the scheme to 87 while providing a fillip to the Income generating activities of tribals through MFP Procurement. During 2020-21, the State Government procured MFPs worth Rs. 157.51 crores to provide immediate livelihood support to tribal MFP gatherers. State-wise details of MFP procurement is enclosed as **Annexure 1**.
- The Ministry disbursed an amount of Rs. 1986.31 crores to 35.2 lakh tribal students under Pre and Post-matric scholarship scheme through DBT during 2020-21 amid the pandemic situation to provide essential support for continuation of education. The State-wise funds released and number of beneficiaries is as per **Annexure 2**.
- The Ministry also disbursed an amount of Rs. 1539.93 crores to States under major schemes viz Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS), Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), Minimum Support Price

to Minor Forest Produce (MSP to MFP) and Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for various activities related to welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes including livelihood support as detailed at **Annexure 3**.

- TRIFED was asked to coordinate with States to ascertain the problems being faced by tribals in disposal of MFPs, quantum of MFPs available with States, strategy for procurement along with plan for storage, value addition and sale of MFP and TRIFED also organised a Webinar in association with UNICEF wherein members of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras were made aware about COVID-19 and related health issues.
- State Governments took various steps to shut down 'haat bazars', where traders from urban areas visit during weekly markets and also ASHA workers are on the job to create awareness on sanitation and hygiene, social distancing practice among the PVTGs and other tribal areas.
- The State/UT Governments were requested by the Ministry for conducting awareness in tribal areas through grassroots level service providers (i.e. ASHA, AWW, ANM) on social distancing, wearing of masks and hand wash etc.
- Ministry vide letter No. 08/02/2020-Livelihood dated 22.12.2020 to Tribal Welfare Department of all States/UTs requested the support of state officials for vaccine administration including generating awareness on Covid-19 vaccination among the tribal communities and their mobilization.

Annexure 1 referred to in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question for answer on 22.03.2021

Values of MFPs procured by States during 2020-21*

Sl. No.	States	Value of MFP (Rs in lakhs)
1	Chhattisgarh	11375.31
2	Gujarat	345.89
3	Jharkhand (JHAMCOFED)	7.91
	Jharkhand (JASCOLAMPF)	402.87
4	Maharashtra	31.59
5	Andhra Pradesh	96.09
6	Madhya Pradesh	96.10
7	Odisha	3032.62
8	Rajasthan	5.92
9	West Bengal	28.44
10	Manipur	1.20
11	Nagaland (DUDA)	12.40
12	Uttar Pradesh	0
13	Kerala	3.8
14	Karnataka	41.54
15	Assam	34.79
16	Tripura (TRPC Ltd.)	0
	Tripura (MARKFED)	0
17	Tamil Nadu	0
18	Mizoram	0
19	Telangana#	<u>235.19</u>
	Total	15751.66

Note : #Telangana State procured MFPs from State /Own Fund.

***Procurement as on date.**

Annexure 2 referred to in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question for answer on 22.03.2021

State-wise fund disbursement and beneficiary data under scholarship schemes of MoTA for 2020-21

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Pre-matric		Post-matric	
		Fund Released (Rs. In lakhs)*	Beneficiaries (Estimated As per Proposal by States/UTs)	Fund Released (Rs. In lakhs)*	Beneficiaries (Estimated As per Proposal by States/UTs)
1	Andaman & Nicobar	12.33	450	13.29	700
2	Andhra Pradesh	1433.81	63653	6039.35	181921
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	5712.96	24000
4	Assam	0	0	5413.54	0
5	Bihar	0	55198	708.22	19513
6	Chhattisgarh	1614.55	149574	4336.77	158892
7	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	234	5548	1688.14	0
8	Goa	41.35	3475	458.18	6412
9	Gujarat	2198.84	0	22977.64	0
10	Himachal Pradesh	91.87	3534	0	5121
11	Jammu & Kashmir	0	11470	0	27839
12	Jharkhand	0	114609	0	83374
13	Karnataka	0	62126	0	129094
14	Kerala	116.56	11220	3285.25	16663
15	Ladakh	42.27	3450	738	8200
16	Madhya Pradesh	5429.34	350865	12344	350000
17	Maharashtra	0	111939	18149.52	157070
18	Manipur	0	0	2184.19	50000
19	Mizoram	167.86	17000	3446.82	47000
20	Nagaland	60.75	3000	3226.37	43373
21	Odisha	6944.96	196355	19095.97	180109
22	Puducherry	1.63		19.56	
23	Rajasthan	3126.9	202588	25557.03	315315
24	Sikkim	9.41	414	553.83	5317
25	Tamil Nadu	241	13471	3328.99	
26	Telangana	0	6000	27297.83	142167
27	Tripura	82.13	12627	4804.98	26092
28	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	2218.67	19782
29	Uttarakhand	138.24	7117	0	7164
30	West Bengal	788.22	41438	2256.42	68804
	Total	22776.02	1447121	175855.5	2073922

Annexure 3 referred to in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question for answer on 22.03.2021

Release of funds to States during 2020-21 under major schemes of MoTA / Grant as on 28.02.2021

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No	State/ UT	Article 275 (1) Grants	SCA to TSS	PVTGs	MSP to MFP
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2055.55	3205.80	1245.51	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4894.00	4465.50	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	4592.37	3361.09	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	994.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	8484.43	8769.06	989.32	0.00
6.	Goa	0.00	724.26	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	5940.04	9358.36	552.20	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1161.00	1367.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Jharkhand	8993.12	6743.55	1136.06	0.00
10.	Karnataka	3305.68	0.00	438.46	0.00
11.	Kerala	0.00	459.15	88.00	0.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4279.78	0.00	2188.11	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	4573.16	0.00	753.67	0.00
14.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Mizoram	1909.71	1236.22	0.00	91.50
17.	Nagaland	1717.38	1515.50	0.00	0.00
18.	Odisha	4685.24	9010.42	1202.00	0.00
19.	Rajasthan	9011.00	5910.50	968.00	0.00
20.	Sikkim	516.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	377.47	551.08	259.91
22.	Telangana	2517.00	3451.00	1460.50	0.00
23.	Tripura	201.74	1173.30	231.43	0.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	927.43	508.83	82.04	0.00
25.	Uttarakhand	0.00	757.80	295.00	0.00
26.	West Bengal	4041.14	3746.00	519.40	0.00
	Total	73805.77	67134.81	12700.78	351.41
