

Special plan for tribal and backward areas

855. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to prepare a special plan for development of tribal areas and backward regions which have become a source of discontent and violence leading to enlarge the gap between them and the developed areas and regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Planning Commission, it has initiated the process of preparation of Integrated Action Plans (IAPs) to address the critical gaps in the development of 35 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) districts with the help of State Governments, the district administrations and elected representatives.

Rights of tribals on minor produce of forest

856. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has suggested to give rights to minor produce of the forest to the tribal people living in forest areas, particularly in the focused 35 districts of Maoist influenced areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is likely to bring in suitable legislation during the current session; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As per Clause 4(m)(ii) of the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996 (PESA), Panchayats at the appropriate level and the Gram Sabha are endowed with the ownership of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) in Schedule V Areas.