

#### **Campaign for protection and welfare of elephants**

†2177. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched the nation wide campaign "Hathi Mere Saathi" to better protection and welfare of elephants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the salient features of this campaign and the names of different agencies of the country participating in this campaign; and
- (d) the amount allocated for this campaign and the details of actual expenditure incurred so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) The Ministry had constituted a "Task Force on Project Elephant" to recommend measures for a more effective conservation and management regime for elephants in India. The Task Force submitted its report in 2010.

One of the recommendations of the Task Force is to reach out to the people, to improve conservation and welfare prospects of the elephant. In this direction, the Ministry, in partnership with the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) has launched the nationwide Saathi Mere Saathi' campaign by unveiling the campaign mascot, logo and website of the campaign during the Elephant-8 Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi on 24th May 2011. Other details of the campaign have not been finalized. No amount has been allocated for this campaign and the Government has not incurred any expenditure so far.

#### **Difficulties in formulating proposals under Forest Conservation Act**

2178. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry's circular dated 3 August, 2009 prescribing guidelines for formulating unconditional proposals under Forest Conservation Act after due compliance of Forest Rights Act are causing problems on the grounds in view of provision for consultation with Gram Sabhas under the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the steps taken for modification of the guidelines to ensure compliance with all the three Acts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Ministry of Environment & Forests did not receive information that the Ministry's circular dated 3 August, 2009 prescribing guidelines for formulating unconditional proposals under Forest Conservation Act after due compliance of Forest Rights Act is causing problems on the grounds in Gram Sabhas under the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Higher MSP for Minor Forest Produce**

2179. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been planned for 12 types of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) on which livelihood of over 10 crore people including tribals is dependent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken to ensure that the States do follow the stipulated norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. T. Haque to look into different aspects of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) management in fifth schedule areas which has recommended for fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 MFPs in its final report. These are Tamarind, Mahuwa flower, Mahuwa seed, Tendu leaf, Bamboo, Sal Seed, Myrobalan, Chironji, Lac, Gum karaya, Honey, Seeds of Karanja, Neem and Puwad. To operationalize the MSP for selected MFPs, the Planning Commission has suggested for Central Price Fixation Commission for MFP as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. All primary collectors including tribal and people living in and around the forests involved in the MFP collection will be benefitted.