

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No- 938  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 09/02/2022

**PROTECTING HABITATION OF TRIBALS**

938. SHRI N. R. ELANGO:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to protect the habitation of tribals; and
- (b) the steps taken to document, improve and augment income for the tribals from their natural skills?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI BISHWESHWAR TUDU)

(a): Ministry of Tribal Affairs administers "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" (FRA in short), which was passed by the Parliament in 2006. The Act was notified for its operation on 31.12.2007 and rules thereunder were notified on 01.01.2008, as amended in 2012.

FRA is an Act to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded; to provide for a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land.

Section 3(1)(a) of FRA provides the right to hold and live in the forest land under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self-cultivation for livelihood by a member or members of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dwellers;

Section 3(1)(e) of FRA provides the rights including community tenures of habitat and habitation for primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities.

As per the Act and Rules, State Governments are responsible for implementation of various provisions of the Act.

(b): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the following income generation schemes for tribal population keeping in view the traditional skills of the tribals:

### **1. Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Products & Produce**

Under the scheme, Grants-in-aid are released to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCCs) and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED). The objective of the Scheme is to create institutions for the Scheduled Tribes to support marketing and development of activities they depend on for their livelihood by:

- i. Market intervention,
- ii. Training and skill up-gradation of Tribal Artisans, Craftsmen, Minor Forest Produce (MFP) gatherers
- iii. Research & Development (R&D) / Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) activities, and
- iv. Supply chain infrastructure development.

### **2. Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Through Minimum Support Price (MSP) And Development of Value Chain For MFP”**

The scheme seeks to establish a system to ensure fair monetary returns for their efforts in collection, primary processing, storage, packaging, transportation etc. It also seeks to get them a share of revenue from the sales proceeds with cost deducted. It also aims to address other issues for sustainability of process. The scheme envisages fixation and declaration of Minimum Support Price for the selected MFP. Procurement & Marketing operation at prefixed MSP will be undertaken by the designated State Agencies. Simultaneously, other medium- & long-term issues like sustainable collection, value addition, infrastructure development, knowledge base expansion of MFP, market intelligence development, strengthening the bargaining power of Gram Sabha/ Panchayat are also addressed.

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