

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:355
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2002
FUNDS UNDER THE TRIFED
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated under the TRIFED 2002-2003 budget;
- (b) whether the Government are aware that the beneficiaries are not getting the full benefit under the TRIFED and the private businessmen and middlemen are still exploiting the tribal farmers;
- (c) if so, the number of complaints recorded in this regard;
- (d) the action being taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty; and
- (e) the steps taken to protect the interests of tribal farmers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM):

(a) The budget allocation to TRIFED during the year 2002-03 under the Price Support Scheme is Rs. 600.00 lakhs and under the Investment in Share Capital of TRIFED is Rs. 1.00 lakh.

(b) to (d) TRIFED, an Apex level Cooperative Society registered under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, was set up in 1987. The objective of TRIFED was to organize and plan the growth and development of natural products and their trade in the country and boost up the economic and commercial viability of the State level Corporations and other Agencies by providing marketing support to them. TRIFED has been functioning towards achieving these objectives since its inception.

The Ministry has, however, not received any specific complaint regarding exploitation of the tribals by private businessmen and middlemen.

(e) TRIFED's endeavour has been to render marketing support to the tribals for their produce to the extent possible and to intervene in the market for undertaking procurement in the pre-dominantly tribal areas through the State level agencies. Recently, TRIFED has undertaken procurement of MFPs through joint venture with State level Cooperative Corporations. In addition TRIFED also has been imparting training to tribals for better cultivation/collection, preservation, value addition and marketing in respect of various commodities.