

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:608
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
WELFARE OF FOREST TRIBALS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes/programmes being implemented for welfare of tribals living in forests, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for providing alternative livelihood to such tribals due to shrinking of forest areas;
- (c) whether the Government have taken note that some of the tribals are surviving on tree roots and wild grass/ plants;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for their upliftment?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBALAFFAIRS (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE):

(a) and (b) Considering the fact that tribals have a symbiotic relationship with forests, this Ministry has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations, basically for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) operations since 1992-93. The Corporations seek to ensure a fair price to the tribals for MFP collection by eliminating middlemen. Under the scheme, funds released to the States during the last 3 years are as under:-

STATEMENT

(Rs.in lakhs)

1. 1999-2000 905.00
2. 2000-2001 842.00
3. 2001-2002 1280.67

(c) to (e) No specific case has come to the notice of this Ministry.