

जयराम रमेश
JAIRAM RAMESH



राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
पर्यावरण एवं वन
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली-110003
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110 003

My dear Montek -

Following a commitment I had made to the Prime Minister in a meeting to discuss PESA in which you were also present, I have written to all Chief Ministers on the issue of declaring bamboo as MFP. I had sent you a copy of this letter to you earlier.

Now, I seek to address a second issue that has come up frequently in PM's meetings on PESA--namely, declaring MSP for MFP. I have discussed this subject with Member-Secretary, Planning Commission and also with Dr. T. Haque who is chairman of a committee set up by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in August 2010 that will soon be submitting its report.

The consensus view that has emerged is the following:

- MSP must be notified for major MFPs considered important for tribal livelihoods. 12 such MFPs have been identified—tendu, bamboo, mahuwa flower and seed, sal leaf and seed, lac, chironjee, wild honey, myrobalan, tamarind, gums (gum karaya) and karanj.
- A Central Committee should fix the MSP that will be bench-mark for all states to follow. States can fix MSPs above the bench-mark but definitely not below it.
- Monopoly of any kind (including by a state agency) on purchase of all MFPs including tendu and bamboo should be removed.
- State agencies trading in MFPs should be committed to purchasing all MFPs from the gatherers, rather than procuring only profitable MFPs. State agencies should also improve their marketing networks significantly.
- All transportation barriers creating hurdles in the movement of MFPs must be removed.
- Gram Sabhas must be empowered to take on a more proactive role in the management and regeneration of MFPs. Forest working plans for regeneration must be prepared with the full participation of Gram Sabhas.
- Value-addition of MFPs after their collection is essential. Basic value-addition units at the village level should be established.

The MoE&F is more than ready to work with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Planning Commission to take this MFP initiative forward. Reforms in forest administration necessitated as part of this initiative will be given the highest priority.

With warm ^{personal} regards,

Sincerely yours,

Jairam Ramesh

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11/4/11

Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia

Deputy Chairman

Planning Commission

New Delhi