

ରଞ୍ଜନା ଚୋପ୍ରା, ଭା.ପ୍ର.ସେ.
Ranjana Chopra, IAS



Government of Odisha

ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଶାସନ ସଚିବ,
ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜନଜାତି ଓ ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜାତି ଉନ୍ନୟନ,
ସଂଖ୍ୟାଲଘୁ ଓ ପଛୁଆବର୍ଗ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ
Principal Secretary,
ST & SC Development, Minority &
Backward Classes Welfare Department
Phone: 0674 - 2536672, 2322757
E-mail: ranjana.chopra@nic.in

No. 6673 /SSD,
STSCD-TPR-PLAN2-0014-2019
Date : 02.05.2020

To

All Collectors.

Sub.: Collection, sale & storage of Mahua flower classified as Minor Forest produces by the STs and OTFDs by combating the impact of COVID 19.

Ref.:- This Deptt.'s letter bearing No.6521/SSD dt.20.04.2020 (Copy enclosed).

Sir,

I am to state that Section 3 (1) (c) of the Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 provides for right of ownership, access to collect, use & dispose of MFP, which has been traditionally collected within or outside village boundaries. Even Rule 2 (d) of the amended FRA Rules, 2012 further stipulates that the disposal of MFP shall include right to sell as well as individual or collective processing, storage, value addition, transportation within and outside forest area through appropriate means of transport for use of such produce or sale by gatherers or their cooperatives or associations or federation for livelihood. Despite such statutory provisions of the Forest Rights Act & its amended Rules, it has come to our notice that the collection, sale and storage of Mahua flower (MFP) by the STs & OTFDs are not being allowed in several districts. As a result, tribals as well as forest dwellers are being deprived of their livelihood opportunities and are facing hardship in this lean season. Hence, you are requested to allow the collection, sale, and disposal of the Mahua flower, provided it does not violate or contradict the provisions of Odisha Excise Act, 2008 and order bearing no.2214 dt.17.04.2020 of the R &DM Deptt. on guidelines in view of COVID-19.

Yours faithfully,

Principal Secretary

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

No. 6521 / SSD, Bhubaneswar Date 20.4.20
STSCD-TPR-PLAN2-0014-2019

From
Smt. Ranjana Chopra, IAS.
Principal Secretary

To
The Collector & District Magistrate / Superintendent of Police
Malkangiri/Koraput/Rayagada/Kalahandi/Kandhamal/Nabarangpur/Sambalpur/
Sundargarh / Keonjhar/ Mayurbhanj / Nuapada / Gajapati / Deogarh.

Sub: Procurement of Minor Forest produces (MFPs) under the scheme of "Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFPs" by combating the impact of COVID 19 on ST primary collectors of MFPs.

Ref: Order bearing no.2214/R & DM (DM) dated 17.04.2020 issued by the Chief Secretary, Odisha (Point No.8 A,viii).

Sir/Madam,

The lockdown phase of COVID-19 has coincided with the peak season for collection & harvesting of the MFPs and majority of the STs of your district, are depended on this for their livelihood. Thus, it has become imperative on our part to initiate precautionary measures so as to protect them as well as their livelihood at this critical juncture. In this regard, advisories issued by the Government & particularly the instructions contained in the Master Circular on Social Distancing issued by the Health & Family Welfare Department, Odisha are to be strictly followed. Key points are indicated in **Annexure-1**.

In this context, the Collectors may facilitate the following and ensure free movement of transport for this purpose:

1. Collection, harvesting and processing of NTFP/ MFP by tribal communities and other forest dwellers.
2. Registration of procurement agencies / individuals at the panchayat level.
3. Procurement of NTFP/ MFP by agencies like OSFDC and TDCC, etc through Primary Procurement Agencies.
4. Transport of these products till the storage godowns / cold storage.

I would therefore, request you to look into the matter on priority & initiate needful action so as to protect the livelihood of tribal MFP gatherers by allowing them to collect MFPs and sell those items through the Primary Procurement Agencies (PPAs) at MSPs fixed by the Government.

This may please be treated as **MOST URGENT**.

Yours faithfully,

M
20/4/20
Principal Secretary

Memo No. 6522 / SSD, Dt. 20.4.20

Copy along with copy of the enclosure sent to the Joint Secretary to Govt. Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 7th Floor, A-Wing, Govt. of India, Shastri Bhawan, New-Delhi-110001 / MD, TRIFED, NCUI Building, 3 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New-Delhi-110016 for information and necessary action.

Memo No. 6523 / SSD, Dt. 20.4.20

Director (ST)

20/4/2020

Copy along with copy of the enclosure sent to the ACS, Forest & Env. Department / ACS, Revenue & DM Department / Principal Secretary to Govt. PR & DW Department / Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department / PCCF, Odisha / all RDCs for information and necessary action.

Memo No. 6524 / SSD, Dt. 20.4.20

Director (ST)

Copy along with copy of the enclosure sent to MD, TDCCOL, Unit-9, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action. He is requested to keep close watch over the matter & fix suitable days in a week to purchase MFPs from the STs collectors/gatherers by involving the PPAs after due consultation with the district administration, and thereby check any eventuality of spread of Corona Virus among the tribal communities. Weekly transfer of money to the respective accounts of the tribal MFP collectors/gatherers is to be ensured so that they do not suffer during this critical juncture.

Director (ST)

Memo No. 6525 / SSD, Dt. 20.4.20

Copy along with copy of the enclosure sent to all DFOs of the concerned districts PA, ITDAs concerned / DWOs concerned / Sub-Collectors concerned for information and necessary action.

Director (ST)