

## Chhattisgarh to launch social security scheme for tendu leaf collectors

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**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh government is introducing a social security scheme for the tribals engaged in the plucking of beedi leaves from the forests. The scheme is to be named after slain Congress leader Mahendra Karma, who was killed along with other frontline Congress leaders in a deadly Maoist ambush at Jheeram valley in Bastar in May 2013. Titled as Shaheed Mahendra Karma samajik Suraksha Yojana, the scheme aims to benefit more than 12.50 lakh families engaged in the plucking of tendu ( beedi leaves) from the forests. The scheme envisages to provide a financial aid of Rs two lakh to the nominee or the heir in case of normal death of the head of the family of a registered tendupatta labourer if the deceased's age is below 50 years.

In case of death due to accident, additional financial aid Rs two lakh will be provided, where as in case of permanent disability caused in the accident, financial aid of Rs two lakh will be provided and Rs one lakh for partial disability.

If the age of head of the tendupatta labourer's family is between 50 and 59 years, then Rs 30,000 will be provided as financial aid in case of normal death, Rs 75,000 in case of accidental death, and Rs 75,000 in case of permanent disability cause in the accident and Rs 37, 5000 will be provided to the nominee or heir in case partial disability caused.

This scheme is being launched under the joint aegis of Forest Department and Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Cooperatives Union limited to provide social security to the labourer families engaged in tendupatta collection. Implementation of the scheme will be done by Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Cooperatives Union Ltd. District Union concerned will resolve the cases within one month and provide the financial aid directly into the bank accounts of the tendupatta collectors.

After coming to power, the Bhupesh baghel government had revised the tendupatta collection rate from Rs 2500 to Rs 4000 per standard bag as promised in its election manifesto.

Chief minister Bhupesh baghel will launch this social security scheme for tendu leaf pluckers on August 5 on the occasion of birth anniversary of former leader of the opposition Mahendra Karma, who had spearheaded a movement against the Maoists in Bastar for long and eventually killed in a deadly Maoist attack on May 25, 2013. The chief minister will pay tributes to Mahendra karma by garlanding his picture.

Meanwhile, the chief minister will also transfer to cattle rearers the first the first instalment of payment for cow dung procured between July 20 and August 1 under Godhan Nyay Yojana. Officials said nearly 82, 711 quintals of cow dung has been procured from 46,964 out of the total 65 thousand 694 registered beneficiaries. A total amount of Rs 1. 65 crore will be transferred into the bank accounts of cattle rearers towards payment of cow dung procured from them.

Bhupesh baghel government had launched a unique scheme to cow dung from cattle rearers under the Godhan Nyay Yojana at a price of rs two per kilogram. The cow dung procured is being used to produce vermicompost.

**Source:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/raipur/chhattisgarh-to-launch-social-security-scheme-for-tendu-leaf-collectors/articleshow/77355150.cms>