

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4786
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
CONSTITUTION OF ADVISORY GROUP ON TRIBALS
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Commission on Population has constituted an Advisory Group on tribals to consider the problems of tribals in the country;
- (b) if so, the composition of the Group;
- (c) whether the Group has convened any meeting;
- (d) if so, the details of problems of tribals discussed in the meeting along with the details of suggestions made by the Group to remove these problems; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PLANNING, STATISTICS, PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b): The composition of the Group is given below :

i) Dr. D.N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission - Chairman.

Members

- ii) Shri S.K. Naik, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
iii) Mrs. Krishna Singh, Member-Secretary, National Commission on Population, New Delhi.
iv) Mrs. T.K. Sarojini, Adviser (SW&BC), Planning Commission, New Delhi.
v) Representative of the Department of Family Welfare, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi.
vi) Representative of the Department of ISM&H, Red Cross Building, New Delhi.
vii) Representative of the State Government of Chhatisgarh
viii) Representative of the State Government of Jharkhand
ix) Representative of the State Government of Assam
x) Representative of the Ramakrishna Mission, Narayanpur, District Bastar, Chhatisgarh
xi) Representative of Bharat Sevashram Sangh, Jamshedpur, District Singhbhum, Jharkhand
xii) Representative of Utthan, 18-A, Auckland Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad, U.P.
xiii) Dr. Pankaj Bhatia, Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Jashpurnagar, District Jashpur, Chhatisgarh - 496331.
xiv) Shri Ashok Bhagat, Vikas Bharati, Bisnupur, District Gumla, Jharkhand
xv) Dr. D.C. Tripathi, 15-A, Delhi Adm. Flat, Mahavir Nagar Extension, N.Delhi-110018, Ph. 5432489, 5563749
xvi) Dr. Pophale, Family Planning and Medical Aid Trust, Indian Merchantile Mansion, 3rd Floor, Opp. C.J. Hall, 7, Regal Cinema, Madam Cama Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400001
xvii) Dr. H. Sudarshan, Hon. Secretary, Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra, B.R. Hills, Yelandur Taluk, Chamarajanagar District, Karnataka.
xviii) Shri Tarun Coomar, Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi - Convenor.

(c): The Group had its first meeting on 30th January, 2001.

(d) & (e): After detailed discussions with regard to the socio-economic-demographic problems of tribal communities, the following are some of the concerns which were brought up:

1. The nutritional standard of tribals, more so specific to reproduction and child health meaning thereby pregnant and lactating mothers and infants require to be specifically addressed.
2. Health and nutritional needs of PTGs needs special attention.
3. Health and survival insecurity, which perhaps is one of the major reasons for increased population amongst tribals, especially PTGs, needs to be addressed.
4. Documentation and integration of the tribal system of medicine is urgently required coupled with restoration of lost practices with the objective of improving the tribal health and nutrition. Impacts of innovative programmes are required to be assessed.
5. There is need for synergy amongst the different agencies involved in tribal development particularly in the areas of health and family welfare.
6. As far as possible, local workers are required to be recruited and trained to take care of their own people.
7. Local practitioner of traditional medicines and traditional midwives (Dais) are required to be properly trained and equipped.
8. Ensure availability of medicines and nutritional herbs in the natural resources surroundings tribal habitats and prevent destructive over utilisation of natural resources.
9. All these must be achieved within a stipulated time frame.

In order to examine the above issues in detail and to identify the gaps in the existing health care and family welfare programmes available to tribals, the Advisory Group branched out into four small Sub-groups. The recommendations of these Sub-groups will be made available to the Advisory Group when it will again meet to finalise a programme of action.