

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:240
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2010
LIFE EXPECTANCY OF TRIBALS
Mcleod Smt. Ingrid

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any study to determine the life expectancy of the tribals in India
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the low life expectancy of the tribals; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIKANTILAL BHURIA)

A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.240 for 12.3.2010 by Smt. Ingrid Mcleod, MP, regarding 'Life Expectancy Tribals'.

- (a) & (b) No Madam. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not undertaken any study to determine the life expectancy of tribals in India.
- (c) Life expectancy of tribals is a complex interplay of: various social, economic and environmental factors. The mortality rates which are used to calculate the life expectancy, are primarily related to the health care and health seeking behaviour of the tribals. Health care is a problem in far flung isolated tribal areas. Lack of food security, sanitation and safe drinking water, poor nutrition; and high poverty levels` aggravate the poor health status of tribals, in turn impacting the mortality rates.
- (d) The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the nodal Ministry for implementing various public health programmes/schemes for addressing the health concerns/requirements of the population including the Scheduled Tribes. A National Rural Health Mission has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare with the objective of providing accessible, affordable and accountable quality health services to rural areas with the emphasis on poor and remote areas. Further, the population coverage norms have been relaxed in respect of setting up of Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres in far flung, hilly and remote areas. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs supplements the efforts of the nodal Ministry and acts as a gap filler in service deficient areas in various sectors including health. The specific intervention of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the area of health, is mainly done through its scheme of providing Grants-in-Aid to Non Governmental Organisations for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.