

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2641  
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2011  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
Banerjee Shri Ambica

**Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India has the second largest concentration of tribal population in the world next to Africa;
- (b) if so, whether the health and nutritional status of all tribal groups is good;
- (c) if not, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve their health and nutritional status?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS(SHRI MAHADEO SINGH KHANDELA)

(a): The population of Scheduled Tribes in India is 84326240 as per 2001 census. This Ministry does not maintain data about tribal population outside India.

(b) & (c): As per the report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) conducted during 2005-06 by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, it appears malnutrition is more in the Scheduled Tribes population as compared to the total population if one takes into account prevalence of anaemia and Body Mass Index. Overall health status depends upon many health indicators, therefore, no definite conclusion can be inferred about it. Some health indicators are given in annexure.

(d): National Rural Health Mission is being implemented by the Government to improve health status of people which includes tribal groups also. Likewise Integrated Child Development Scheme is under implementation by the Government to improve the nutritional status of children including tribal groups. In order to raise the health status of Scheduled Tribes, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs supplements the efforts of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Woman & Child Development and the State Governments by supporting NGO efforts under the scheme of "Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes", which include grants for running and maintenance of 10 or more Bedded Hospital and Mobile Dispensaries in tribal areas for providing free health care exclusively for the tribal population.