

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:530

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013

MALNUTRITION DEATHS OF TRIBAL CHILDREN

Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether malnutrition deaths of children below the age of five have been reported from the tribal areas in various parts of the country including Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has conducted any inquiry regarding the reported deaths of children due to malnutrition in such areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Ministry of Tribal Affairs proposes to send a team to have an on-the-spot assessment of the situation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the other measures being proposed in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement Referred to in parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No 530 for 3.5.2013 regarding 'Malnutrition deaths of Tribal children'.

(a) & (b) As per information received from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, malnutrition is not a direct cause of death among children but can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing the resistance to infections. However, it is estimated that malnutrition is a contributing factor in about half of the deaths of children below five years in India. Government of Kerala have confirmed death of 18 ST children below the age of 5 years from Integrated Tribal Development Project, Attappady, Palakkad district, Kerala. There is no data available regarding death due to malnutrition in children including tribal children below the age of five years.

(c) No Sir.

(d) & (e) At present there is no proposal to send a team to have an on-the-spot assessment. Government of Kerala, Scheduled Tribe Department and the Social Justice Department have jointly enquired and conducted house to house survey. The Scheduled Tribes Development Department have distributed 10 Kilo Grams rice and 2 Kilo Grams Green Gram to all the 10,700 Scheduled Tribe families in Integrated Tribal Development Project, Attappady. The State Government has informed that they have taken all steps to ensure that children in the State including ST children get adequate nutrition. These include promotion of traditional agriculture, conducting health camps and distribution of supplementary nutrition by Anganwadi Centers etc. Additionally, the Government of India has established nutrition rehabilitation centres in 81 tribal dominated districts in Schedule-V states. Given the concentration of tribal inhabitation in far-flung areas, forest lands, hills and remote villages, to better support infrastructure development, the population norms for setting up health facilities have been relaxed at different levels.