

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:202  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2014  
PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS  
Lekhi Smt. Meenakshi

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

- (a) The number and details of listed Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) or primitive tribal groups in the country, State/UT-wise along with the specific problems being faced by each of such tribal groups;
- (b) whether the population of PVTGs in the country is shrinking, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the various welfare schemes implemented by the Government for the growth and development of PVTGs along with the details of funds allocated and utilised during each of the last three year and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of such schemes and if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is aware of the recent death of women from PVTGs due to sterilisation incident in Bilaspur and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with the measures taken by the Government to reduce mortality rates amongst PVTGs?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM)

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

Statement referred to in part (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 202 for 08.12.2014 regarding Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups asked by Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi.

(a): There are 75 identified Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the country. A State/UT-wise list is attached as Annex-I. As indicated by various State Governments/UT Administration in their Conservation-cum-Development(CCD) Plan submitted to this Ministry, the specific problems being faced by such tribal groups are poor opportunities of livelihood, lack of proper access to health-care, education, potable drinking water, sanitation, road connectivity etc.

(b): There has been decline in population of PVTGs for Kolam (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Koraga (Karnataka), Cholanaikayan (Kerala), Mal Paharia (Bihar), Kota (Tamilnadu), Birhor (Odisha) and Shompen (Andaman & Nicobar Island). The reasons for the decline have not been ascertained.

(c): Apart from the schemes being implemented by the line Ministries/ Departments and State Government concerned, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing a 100% Central Sector Scheme viz. Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) for the overall development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The scheme aims at the socio-economic development of PVTGs in a holistic manner by adopting habitat development approach and intervening in all spheres of their social and economic life, so that the quality of life of PVTGs is improved and a visible impact is made. The funds under this scheme are made available to the States/UTs having PVTG population in accordance with CCD plan as approved by an Expert Committee in the Ministry including items/activities which are very crucial for the survival, protection and development of the PVTGs. The funds released to States/UTs/NGOs and utilized in this regard, during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise is attached as Annex-II.

(d): The CCD plan of the States for the XIIth plan period were initially discussed in the year 2012-13 and approved. Periodic meetings are also held with the States for effective implementation of the CCD plan. Further, as a mid-term review, Project Appraisal Committee meetings were held with the States in 2014 to review the CCD plans and redesign activities thereunder wherever required, so as to make them more relevant and responsive to the needs of the PVTGs. During the ongoing Project Appraisal Committee meetings, special emphasis has been given for Education, Health and Livelihood.

(e) As soon as the incident came to the notice of the Ministry, it took up the matter with the Government of Chhattisgarh and sought a report from them on the incidence. The Government of Chhattisgarh has reported that Criminal and Departmental proceedings have been initiated against the doctors involved in the incident. Criminal proceedings have also been initiated against the concerned drug manufacturing company. Further it has also appointed a judicial commission of inquiry headed by a District & Sessions Judge (Retd) to inquire into this incident and has requested the Commission to give its report within 3 months.

As regards measures taken by the Government, given the concentration of tribal inhabitation in far-flung areas, forest lands, hills and

remote villages, the population norms have been relaxed by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at different levels of health facilities for better health infrastructure development. The National Health Mission also aims at bridging the gap in Rural Health Care services through a cadre of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and improved hospital care, decentralization of programme to district level to improve intra and inter-sectoral convergence and effective utilization of resources.

As regards mortality rates, it has been noticed from NFHS data(2005-06) that the infant mortality rate among the STs (62.1) is higher than that of the infant mortality rate (57.0) of the total population. However, the child mortality rate of STs (35.8) is almost double of that of the child mortality rate (18.4) of total population, which appears to be mainly due to the low childhood immunisation amongst the STs including PVTGs. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and advised them to undertake focused immunization drives in the tribal areas so that the child mortality rates of the STs including PVTGs are reduced. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs also accords high priority to the provision of health facilities for PVTGs in the CCD Plan under the scheme of Development of PVTG.