

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4588
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014
ICDS SCHEME
Biju Shri Parayamparanbil Kuttappan

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of children and pregnant women who were included in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme with an aim to provide nutritious food and health care facilities died during the last three years and the current year in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT- wise including Kerala;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) to (d): Data on the number of deaths in the country including the State of Kerala is not maintained by this Ministry. However, as per the survey on 'Causes of Death – 2001-03 in India' by Registrar General of India, some of the major causes of death of children below 4 years are perinatal conditions (33%), respiratory infections (22%), diarrheal diseases (14%), other infections and parasitic diseases (11%), accounting for 80% of the deaths in this age group. Nutritional deficiencies are responsible for only 2.8% death of children aged 0-4 years and 1.8% in the age group 5-14 years.

However, as per the reports received in June, 2013, deaths of infants took place in Attappady Block of Palakkad District of Kerala.

A team constituted by the Ministry was sent to Kerala in June, 2013, to take immediate action and submit a report. The team submitted its report which inter alia states that there is no single reason that can alone explain the deaths of tribal children at Attappady, Kerala. There are various conditions that have cumulatively contributed to this crisis. While poverty and destitution among adivasis is not endemic to the adivasis in Attappady alone, the present crisis is symptomatic of the collective impact of socio-economic disempowerment of the tribal community and lack of proper governance. The various reasons can be listed as; change in life style, unemployment and voicelessness of the tribal community, alcoholism and use of tobacco products, collapse of traditional systems, lack of adequate health services, attack of wild animals etc.

(e) Ministry of Rural Development constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, for Attappady Tribal area for supporting the Scheduled Tribes to carry out the following functions:

Coordinate the support provided by different departments of the Government of India for the benefit of the ST population of Attappady.

Liaise with the relevant State departments and agencies to converge resource and services.

Guide preparation of special projects which could be funded by the Government of India.

Arrange technical assistance as may be required for different programmes for tribal development.

Facilitate conduct of diagnostic studies and impact assessment.

Monitor the progress of implementation of centrally sponsored schemes in the jurisdiction of ITDP Attappady.

Separately, the Kerala Government has been asked by the Ministry of Women and Child Development on 02.12.2014 to undertake social audit on implementation of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme in Attappady block of Palakkad District.