

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4436
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014
HEALTH AWARENESS AMONG STS
Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the low level of awareness about health schemes among the tribal people particularly amongst the women in the country particularly in Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry of Tribal Affairs coordinates with Ministry Health and Family Welfare on health issues of tribal women;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM)

(a) to (d): Tribal population lags behind other communities in their access to health facilities and the level of awareness about health schemes. In Jharkhand, awareness about some of the programme components among ST women vis-à-vis the women among general population is as under :-

Programme Component		% Awareness in Jharkhand	
		ST Women	All Women
Oral Rehydration			
Salt (ORS) Packet	47.3	63.4	
HIV/AIDS	17.2	34.0	
Tuberculosis	66.9	77.2	

Source : National Family Health Survey-III (2005-06)- survey report available on www.nrhm-mis.nic.in

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) coordinates with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on health issues of tribals. To address health care challenges of tribals, MoHFW has also constituted an Expert Committee on Tribal Health with 10 experts as well as representatives of MoHFW and MoTA.

Health is a State subject. However, the Government of India supplements the efforts of the States. As per information received from MoHFW, the National Health Mission (NHM) Framework envisages enabling strategies to address the specific needs of tribal areas/districts and key health issues in tribal areas. Under NHM, support is provided to States for improving health awareness through the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Behavior Change Communication (BCC) component of State Programme Implementation Plans which includes support for banners/wall painting, advertisement in leading newspapers, radio jingles, audio/video spots in leading and regional channels and other folk media. Rs 2.23 crore was approved in financial year 2013-14 within the resource envelope of the State of Jharkhand for IEC/BCC to improve health awareness. Support was also provided to Jharkhand for celebration of World Population Day.

Under NHM, ASHAs have been engaged with the relaxed norm of one ASHA per habitation in tribal/hilly and difficult areas as against the norm of one ASHA per 1000 population. Her roles, inter alia, include creating awareness among the population particularly women and adolescents during home visits and Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs).

MoHFW also provides technical support to States in terms of developing content for newspapers, developing spots for radio/television advertisement, guidelines to improve the awareness of schemes of department of health and bring about general health awareness among the population.