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Title: Regarding infant and child mortality in Attappadi tribal area, Kerala -laid.

SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): The infant and child mortality due to sickle cell anaemia, etc. in Attappadi tribal area is a regular phenomenon. More than 120 infants lost their lives during the last 10 years. Malnourishment among the women folk and anaemic women carrying pregnancy are some of the reasons contributing towards the death of infants. Illicit liquor and drugs availability make the health of people there poorer. Alleged mismanagement, diversion and misappropriation of funds led to less development in this tribal area and earmarked funds did not really yield any desired results. Lack of awareness among them, leads to their exploitation. Government Tribal Hospital at Kottathara does not have much required facilities, therefore, they have to travel nearly 100 kms for specialized treatment. Therefore, it is requested that a Central team consisting of officials from all concerned be deputed to assess the situation. Steps need to be taken to check continued infant and child mortality at Attappadi.