

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3934
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2006
DEATH OF CHILDREN DUE TO HUNGER
Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar

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

- (a) whether several children had died of hunger in the tribal district of Madhya Pradesh during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a Joint Commission of Inquiry instituted by the Commissioner of Supreme Court in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) the suggestions given the Commission to stop such incidents in future;
- (f) the corrective steps taken by the Union Government to stop such hunger deaths in tribal districts of the country State-wise; and
- (g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) No such deaths have been reported by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(c),(d),(e)&(g) Yes, Sir. However, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has not received any report or suggestion from the Joint Commission of Inquiry so far.

(f) The draft National Tribal Policy envisages enhancing the availability of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana in tribal areas with transfer of management and ownership of PDS to the community with linkage with the NRE Guarantee programme. The draft National Tribal Policy also recognizes health care and malnutrition in tribal areas as a major challenge and envisages giving special attention to the health requirement of children below 6 years, providing immunization, preventing severe malnutrition as well as care of pregnant women and lactating mothers. Moreover, the Government is implementing a number of schemes, through different Ministries/Departments, to ensure food and nutritional security for the people including Children. Some of these are as under:

(i) Targeted Public Distribution System and village Grain Bank Scheme (Department of Food & Public Distribution).

(ii) National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (Ministry of Rural Development).

(iii) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme (Ministry of Women & Child Development).

(iv) National Programme for Nutritional Support of Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) [Department of Elementary Education & Literacy].

(v) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant and nursing mothers (Ministry of Women & Child Development).

(vi) Reproductive and Child Health Programme II under the National Rural Health Mission including Iron & Folic Acid and Vitamin A supplementation programmes and Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare).

(vii) Nutrition Education and Training Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board (Ministry of Women & Child Development).