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Title: Need to improve the socio-economic condition of tribal people living in Attapady tribal area in Palakkad Parliamentary Constituency, Kerala.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Sir, this is to draw the attention of this august House towards a serious crisis that has affected the Attapady tribal area in Kerala. Attapady is the largest tribal area in the State and geographically this block is bigger than some districts in the State. Recently Attapady has witnessed widespread malnutrition deaths of new born babies. In 2013 sixty three new born babies died and I had taken up this issue with both Central and State Governments. As a result the then Union Minister for Rural Development and PMO officials had visited the area. Both Governments had announced packages. However, these packages were not implemented properly. Again this year, Attapady witnessed malnutrition death of new born babies. This year alone more than 20 new born babies died. There is widespread malnutrition among pregnant mothers and children. It has been found that the babies who died were having extremely low weight. This grave situation is only a symptom of a larger livelihood crisis among the tribals in that area. This livelihood crisis can be addressed only by ensuring land, employment, safe drinking water, affordable health care, better road connectivity, promotion of agriculture, provision of rural infrastructure and various other measures. The package announced by the Union Government needs to be implemented in order to achieve these objectives. The implementation has to be under the strict monitoring of people's representatives. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to intervene in a proper way to address the crisis of tribal people in Attapady.