

Proceedings of sitting of Shri Tsering Samphel, Hon'ble Member on Health & Nutrition on 13.04.2009 at 1100 hrs.

A list of officers present in the sitting is at Annexure.

ISSUE

Comments and latest updates from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and other concerned Ministries / Departments / Institutions on the issues arising out of a study / compilation done by the Commission on the subject of 'Health and Nutrition' in the context of Scheduled Tribes in India.

BACKGROUND

National Commission for Scheduled tribes is a body constituted in 2004 under Article 338A of the Constitution to monitor and safeguard the socio – economic development and interests of the Scheduled Tribes in India.

To discharge its function, the Commission gather information from different sources and try to match with the targets of the planning commission. It is the duty of the commission to present to the President of India, its noticeable findings and observations concerning the Scheduled Tribes in India, in the form of an Annual Report.

In this sequence, the Commission has collected / compiled some information about the Scheduled Tribes in India in the area of 'Health and Nutrition'. Some issues are arising out of the compiled information, which needs to be addressed in order to ensure that proper/ due attention is being given in this area to the Scheduled Tribes.

It was decided by Shri Tsering Samphel, Hon'ble Member, NCST to hold a discussion with Secretary, Health & Family welfare, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Secretary, Planning Commission and DG, ICMR on 13.04.2009 at 1100 hrs in the Commission to get their comments and updated information on the compiled information in the form of a chapter. They were also requested to offer their views on the issues arising out of it.

DISCUSSION

ICMR explained that they are having total 28 research institutes and 5 out of these which are located in Jabalpur, Port Blair, Bhuvneshwar, Dibrugarh and Hyderabad are specially working for tribal populated areas. These institutes are engaged in research related to identify the most

prevalent diseases in tribal areas, magnitude of a particular disease in particular tribal areas to help to take preventive and curative steps, to develop intervention models for effective health care delivery system. They also explained the study done in the area of Tuberculosis, Malaria, Sickle cell disorders, Thalassemia and non communicable diseases. Results of 3 times survey done for diet and nutritional status of Tribal population was also discussed. Nutrition has a major role in health status of Tribal people especially children.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare mentioned that their ministry is planning a Nursing School in every district. Officer expressed that MD, NRHM should be called for discussion and DHR is not the department to give inputs in this regard.

The representative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs intimated that they are holding separate meetings for the up liftment of PTGs. They are also giving financial support to the line ministries to implement their policies in the tribal districts, like opening of hospital and provision of mobile van. It was informed to the Commission that MTA was not consulted by the Planning Commission for finalization of the health policies and related documents.

It was discussed that officers from Department of drinking water, Ministry of Women & Child Care, RGI and NRHM should also be invited to get the updated information and address the issues raised in the chapter on Health & Nutrition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that another meeting with officers from Ministry of Health & Family welfare, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Planning Commission, ICMR, Deptt. of Drinking Water, NRHM, Ministry of Women & Child Care and RGI may be organized in the Commission.

ANNEXURE

The following were present in the sitting on 13.04.2009 :

NCST

1. Shri Tsering Samphel, Hon'ble Member.....In Chair
2. Shri Aditya Mishra, Jt. Secretary
3. Shri Vinod Aggarwal, Director

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1. Ms. Urvashi Sadhwani, Economic Adviser

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

1. Ms. Shalini Prasad, JS, Deptt. Of Health Research

Indian Council of Medical Research

1. Dr. V. M. Katoch, Secretary, DHR & DG, ICMR
2. Shri M. Rajamani, Sr. DDG (Admin.)
2. Dr. G. S. Toteja, DDG (Scientist 'F')