

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- #2867
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 22/12/2021

AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL UNITS FOR PVTGs

2867# SHRI BRIJLAL:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) details of the instructions, information and suggestions given to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare by the Ministry for operating the mobile medical units made available by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs);
- (b) the way in which the requirements and the habitat of the PVTGs has been identified; and
- (c) whether the mobile medical unit has collected any data with which the area-wise population of PVTGs can be ascertained, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (c) : Under the umbrella of National Health Mission, the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) is a key strategy to facilitate access to public health care particularly to people living in remote, difficult, under-served and unreached areas. The objective of this is to take healthcare to the doorstep of populations, particularly rural, vulnerable and under-served areas. Such areas include **Tribal Areas**. Deployment of MMUs is based on a population norm with 1 MMU per 10 lakh population subject to a cap of 5 MMU s per district. This can be further relaxed for hilly and tribal areas, where the populations are widely dispersed and the geographical terrain is difficult.

There is also a norm for operating the motorcycle ambulance in remote regions in collaboration with nearest sub-centres/ PHCs. States have also been specifically requested to provide MMUs especially in areas inhabited by Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) so as to provide primary health care facility close to their habitation.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides funds to the State Governments to fill the critical gap in strengthening the health services for STs including the PVTG s as indicated below,

- Addition to / Strengthening of building infrastructure of CHCs/ PHCs an equipments.
- Steps for eradication of endemic diseases like malaria, leprosy, TB etc.
- Screening for Sick cell Anaemia among Tribal students.
- Training of Tribal students in paramedical courses.
- Special focus on nutrition issues among children and EMRS/ Ashram schools.
- Active participation in POSHAN campaigns.
- Under the CSR activities of NSTFDC, Rs. 75.02 lakhs sanctioned in last 5 years for providing free ambulance service, establishment of 'NUTRIMIX' Mfg. Units and distribution of sanitary pads.
- Distribution of mosquito nets in malaria prone areas and encouraging pisciculture to control malaria.
- Backyard kitchen garden in schools, hostels, hospitals.
- Promotion of traditional nutritional crops (ragi, minor millets).
- MoU signed with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to work in cooperative partnership to improve health and well-being of students in Tribal schools.
- MoU signed between TRIFED and National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH to facilitates tribal gatherers in procurement, primary processing / value addition and marketing of medical plants.
