

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.105
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021

COVID AMONGST PVTGS

105. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of spread of Covid amongst PVTGs groups in Odisha;
- (b) whether any special measures have been taken by the Government to prevent spread of Covid-19 in Tribal hinterlands; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

- (a) The details of spread of COVID amongst PVTG groups in Odisha is as follows:

No. of cases detected	No. of recovered cases	No. of active cases			Total	Death Cases
		In Home isolation	Hospitalised	Quarantine Centre		
314	314	0	0	0	0	0

- (b) & (c) : Yes, sir. As reported by the State Government of Odisha, various measures to prevent spread of Covid-19 in the tribal hinterlands of PVTG areas have been taken which are as under:

A. Action on Containment & preventive measures

- Door to door survey by Community Resource Persons (CRPs) jointly with ASHA & AWW have been conducted (64214 HHs surveyed in 1679 PVTG villages so far)
- Special vaccination camps organized (23968 no. of PVTGs got vaccinated)
- Assistance by the Community Resource Person in COWIN registration
- Provisioning of Health Kits to all the frontline workers serving PVTGs with 10 different items including masks, sanitizers etc.
- Distribution of masks, sanitizers to the PVTG HHs during awareness campaigns,
- Equipment like Oximeter, Thermal Screening are provided to the CRPs for door to door survey
- Use of local dialects-Awareness message in all the 13 PVTGs dialect prepared and are used in the field
- Use of Public address systems in hard to reach difficult terrains for massive awareness
- Headman/Tribal leaders have been explained/oriented about COVID-19 and its effective management
- CRPs with ASHA & AWW are sensitizing on sanitation and cleanliness to their houses and their village premises
- E-pass to outsiders- Villagers have made controlled entry to the villages. In border villages, local administration has also deployed police personnel to check entry of any outsiders from neighbouring State.

B. Action on Clinical Management

- Teams of dedicated Doctors/Nurses have been constituted to look into the PVTG areas and ensure timely treatment.
- Oxygen & ICU facilities have been arranged for use in case of emergency treatment, if any.
- Dedicated Ambulance for each MPA through Dept. and arrangement from nearby Medical Wing has been kept in readiness to address exigency issues.
- EMRS/Tribal School Hostel/Community Centre are being used as Isolation /Quarantine Centre through local administration.
- PVTG Education Complex, nearby schools and other vacant Halls in community have been used for such purpose.
- The expenses are being borne by the State Govt. for treatment in COVID Care Hospital and local administration at Isolation/Quarantine Centres.
- Monetary assistance to Covid positive PVTG patients-An amount of Rs.1400/- @ Rs.100/- per day is given to the affected PVTG patient for availing 14 days stay in Institutional Centre.

C. Action on Community Engagement & Social Awareness

- Mikes/Loudspeakers on Vans/Auto are being used for Sensitization in massive campaign mode. Where vehicle movement is not possible, use of hand mike is ensured. Posters/flexes/leaflets are also distributed among PVTG communities.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 along with introduction to Black & White fungus are also being covered in awareness program.
- Audio, videos-Local PVTG dialect-Audios and videos in PVTG dialects played through COVID Awareness chariot.
- Youths-CRPs hailing from the same community plays a crucial role in spreading awareness message along with ASHA/AWW/Local NGO frontline workers

D. Action to protect other human rights

- Distribution of free dry rations at the doorsteps- Dry ration kit containing all food ingredients for a complete day are being served to the affected PVTG HHs for 14 days.
- To address malnourishment, dry ration is being supplied to pregnant woman & lactating mother as well as children of 6 months to 3 years during the pandemic time in every 15 days interval.
- Take Home Ration is also being distributed by Anganwadi Workers with the help of local CRPs for the 3 to 6 years children
- Monthly cash entitlement & pensions to PVTGs is being ensured through local administration ,
- Holding of Weekly Haats have been discontinued.
- Special 24x7 Helpline have been functioning in all the Micro Project Agency offices. Besides, 24x7 Control Room has been opened as Helpdesk for round the clock assistance.
- CMs relief package for all the PVTG Households @ Rs.5000/- per HH have been announced on 07.07.2021 & are being transmitted to their accounts through DBT mode.

E. Monitoring the implementation of Advisory

- Collector & District Magistrate being the Nodal Officer of the District in implementing the Advisory of the State Government on management of COVID-19 monitors on daily basis. ST & SC Development Department has also prepared and communicated SOP for the PVTGs to all the concerned districts & officials for its strict observance.
