

SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABANI ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Increasing Child Mortality Rate in KBK districts of Orissa

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the House to the increasing number of deaths of children in the KBK districts of Orissa. The death rate of children is increasing in the tribal areas of Orissa in spite of the Integrated Childhood Management Programme being implemented in the sixteen districts. Around 30,023 ASHAKARMIs have been appointed. About Rs. 6285.516 lakhs have been spent on it. Again, Rs. 32,67,6902/- have been spent on the Mother Protection Scheme, and Rs. 6 crores have been spent on the Norway-India Joint Programme. But, the death-rate of children in Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada and Kandhamal is like this. In 2004-05, 526 children died, whereas, the figure was 657 in 2005-06. In 2006-07, the figure was 674. In Koraput, 833 children died in 2004-05, and in 2005-06, 1105 children died. In Malkangiri, 585 children died in 2004-05, 604 children died in 2005-06, and 792 children died in 2006-07. In Mayurbhanj district, 1750 children died in 2005, 1751 children died in 2006, and 1934 died in 2007. In Nabarangpur, around 1473 children died in 2005, 1486 children died in 2006, and 1627 children died in 2007. In Rayagada district also, 1537 children died in 2005, 1592 children died in 2006, 1585 died in 2007. This clearly indicates that in tribal areas of Orissa, the child mortality rate has increased. The situation is very serious. In fact, it is a matter of great public concern.

In addition to all these above stated schemes, the long-term action plan for KBK districts, for which the Central Government sanctioned a lot of money, has been implemented. Adequate funds were also given by the Central Government for health care, education and childcare. The Orissa Government has completely failed to protect the children in tribal areas, especially in KBK districts.

While expressing concern, I urge upon the Central Government to send a high-level Committee to inquire into this matter. The House may also give direction to the State Government to take immediate and appropriate steps to protect the children in the tribal areas of Orissa.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. (SMT.) KAPILA VATSYAYAN (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

PROF. M.S. SWAMINATHAN (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, also associate myself with it.