

five years of age dying everyday across the world, India tops the list of countries with the highest number of 16.55 lakh such deaths. In 2011, according to a UN Agency, it is six times higher than that of China. China has reported the death of around 2.49 lakh children under the age of five.

In 2011, around 50 per cent of the global under-five deaths occurred in India, Nigeria, Congo. Pakistan and China. India's toll is higher than the deaths in Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Pakistan put together. While there have been 7.56 lakh deaths in Nigeria during the last year. Congo accounts for 4.65 lakh deaths and Pakistan accounts for 3.52 lakh deaths of under-five children during 2011, followed by 1.94 lakh in Ethiopia and 1.34 lakh each in Indonesia and Bangladesh.

Uganda with 1.34 lakh such deaths and Afghanistan with 1.28 lakh such deaths held the 9th and 10th position in the top ten list of countries reporting under five children deaths.

Globally, five leading causes of deaths are pre-term birth complications—14 per cent, diarrhea—11 per cent, intrapartum related complication—9 per cent, and, malaria—7 per cent; it has come down from nearly 12 million in 1990 to 6.9 million in 2011.

My question to the hon. Minister is as to what are the steps taken for the health of children in India.

Demand for taking steps to increase population of Ongole, Punganuru and Deoni breed cattle in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, Ongole cattle are world famous for their toughness, frugality, rapid growth rate, natural tolerance to tropical heat and disease resistance. Andhra Pradesh is proud that it is the first Indian breed recognized all over the world. With lactation period of 279 days, Ongole cow is known for giving 30-35 litres of milk a day which contains rich A2 Casein protein that protects from heart disease and diabetes. But due to negligence by State and Central Governments, it is on the verge of extinction with only 750 left in Andhra Pradesh. Now Ongole cattle is ruling the roost in countries like the US, Brazil, Australia and Africa in the name of Brahman.

Punganuru dwarf cow is the smallest—2.6 ft to 3.5 ft—cow in the world and is considered as Kamadhenu for farmers. Punganuru breed's milk is rich in medicinal properties. It is highly drought resistant and able to survive exclusively on dry fodder.

[Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy]

According to one estimate, its population has come down to 130 which is a cause of concern. Punganuru is amazingly efficient, milker, highly drought resistant and able to survive on dry fodder.

Deoni is another important dual-purpose breed of cattle in Telangana, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Deoni cattle are hardy and well adapted to their breeding tract and constitute an important cattle genetic resource of India. It also has very good lactating period. It is also on the verge of extinction.

In view of the above, I request the Government of India to immediately take steps to increase population of these breeds with special emphasis in the Twelfth Plan.

Demand to confer classical language status to Malayalam

DR. T.N. SEEMA (Kerala) : The Government of Kerala has been urging the Central Government since 2008 for conferring classical language status for Malayalam. The Constitution of India has recognised Hindi as the official language of India and English is also being used by the Government as a language for official purposes by an Act of Parliament. However, in 2004, the Government of India conferred the status of classical language to Tamil, followed with same status to Sanskrit in 2005. There is no doubt, both Tamil and Sanskrit are of ancient tradition and deserve to be named as classical languages. Subsequently, bowing to popular demand, the Government of India conferred the status of classical languages to Kannada and Telugu also in 2008, based on the recommendations of an expert committee using a different set of criteria. The land area between Tirupati and Kanyakumari known in ancient days as Tamilakam, inherited a common tradition and culture. Tamil was the earliest derivative from the Proto Dravidian language, followed by Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. All the three are equal in all respects and share common traits. The eligibility norms now prescribed to determine the classical status of language are grossly inadequate and arbitrary. Malayalam also has every right to be treated as a classical language.

The Government should appoint a committee of experts to examine and evaluate the claim of Malayalam. The terms of reference should include the revision of eligibility conditions wherever required.

I urge the Government to take a favourable decision without any more delay.