

PM talks to Kashipur tribals, allots more foodgrains

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Wednesday talked to the people of Kashipur block in Rayagada district

including Biswanath Majhi of Panasguda village who had lost three members of his family for eating gruel prepared from mango kernel. Twenty one tribals of Kashipur block had died recently after consuming the deadly gruel.

Vajpayee was participating in a video tele-conference with the people of Kashipur and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here. Majhi is reported to have narrated to Vajpayee how he lost his family

members one by one.

However, details about the discussion between the Prime Minister, Chief Minister and the villagers were not available as officials present at the video teleconference avoided newsmen.

Vajpayee reiterated his assurance to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik that he would consider the State's demand for grant of 'special category status.' Vajpayee announced a series of benefits for the poor of the State and assured increased allocation of foodgrains. The Prime Minister also agreed with the demand for increasing the beneficiaries under the old age pension scheme.

A release issued from the CM's secretariat here claimed that the people of Kashipur demanded increase in the number of beneficiaries

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