

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5665

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2003

VILLAGE HEALTH GUIDE SCHEME

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;KAILASH MEGHWAL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have constituted an Expert Committee to look into various aspects of the Village Health Guide Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) if not, by when it is likely to be submitted?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. A Committee of Experts was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K. Umashankar, Ex-Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi with three members in December, 1997 to assess the work and usefulness of Village Health Guide Scheme

(c): Yes, Sir. The Committee had already submitted its report in November, 1998.

(d): Important findings of the Committee are:-

(1) The original objective of the Village Health Guide Scheme has remained mostly unfulfilled. The major objective of providing a functional link between the community and the health care systems has not been achieved.

(2) Most of the State Governments who were responsible for operating this Scheme had lost confidence in it;

(3) The Committee too is of the considered view that it may not be possible, to activate the scheme and make it useful for promoting health and family welfare programmes;

(4) The Committee also noted that States having failed to utilize their services for promotion of health and family welfare programmes tended to ignore the presence of the VHG; and

(5) The Panchyati Raj institutions had also not been able to make use of the services of the VHGs in any significant manner.

Keeping in view the above, the Committee recommended that the Village Health Guide Scheme must be discontinued as early as possible.

Government of India accepted the recommendations of the Committee and discontinued the Scheme w.e.f. 1.4.2002. The State Governments are, however, free to continue with the scheme in its existing/improved/amended version as may suit their respective requirements from within their own resources.

(e) Does not arise.