

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:420

ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005

MOTHER NGO SCHEME

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether the Government had introduced a Mother NGO Scheme under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the objectives of the said Scheme;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted evaluation of the Scheme through an external agency;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the recommendations of the agency; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.420 FOR 21ST DECEMBER, 2005

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Under the Mother NGO Scheme of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme during the 9th Five Year Plan, the underlying philosophy of the Scheme was one of capacity building by forming partnerships between larger and smaller NGOs. Mother NGOs are mainly engaged in advocacy and awareness generation on the RCH Programme.

(c) to (f): Yes, Sir. An external agency had evaluated NGO activities to assess management capabilities of selected NGOs. The agency recommended that modifications need to be made in the existing guidelines of the Scheme. These are in terms of decentralization, simplification of funds disbursement, rationalization of jurisdiction and interface with local government bodies. Additionally, it was found that involving the NGOs in service delivery and addressing gender issues cross cutting the RCH Services areas would be required to make the Programme more effective. Accordingly:

The existing guidelines for funding under the Mother NGO Scheme have been extensively revised to make the Programme more effective and NGO friendly.

In addition to capacity building and nurturing small NGOs, the scheme now focuses on addressing the unmet Reproductive and Child Health needs. This is possible by involving the NGOs in the delivery of RCH Services, in areas which are under served or un-served by the public health care delivery system.

A decentralized approach is adopted in the management and implementation of the Mother NGO Scheme. This means, starting from identification of NGOs, recommending NGO proposals for Government of India approval, the State RCH Society takes responsibility for implementing the scheme. The Mother NGOs are members of the District RCH Society.

In order to optimize results, the NGO is expected to complement and supplement the government health infrastructure and not substitute it. The NGOs' efforts are more effective by developing linkages with local governments, related government departments and establishing networks with technical and resource institutions.

Rationalisation of jurisdiction is done with a view to enable the NGOs to provide in-depth service in the project areas and optimize resources. The project duration of three years is extendable to five years, which facilitate long term planning and stable implementation.