

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2594

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009

RECRUITMENT OF ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVISTS

Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

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

(a) whether the State health sector faces a medical staff crunch;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had issued instructions to the States and Union Territories to recruit Accredited Social Health Activists under the National Health Mission to make basic health services available to the lowest stratum of society across the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Governments have sought special Central assistance for recruitment of Accredited Social Health Activists under the NRHM Scheme;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(f) the fresh steps taken by the Union Government to take National Rural Health Mission to the grassroot level to help in preventing routinely occurring diseases across the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (f) There is indeed shortage of critical human resources in the public health delivery system in some states in the country especially in rural areas. Under NRHM, states have undertaken path breaking steps to compensate these shortages.

The Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) are envisaged to be a Community link worker who facilitate utilisation of services available in the public system. She is envisaged to be the first port of call in health related situations in the community and provide basic support and guidance including referral connectivity. Under the NRHM, funds are released to the states for selection, training and mentoring of ASHAs as per the Annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) of the state. The drug kits of ASHAs are also funded by the Government of India under NRHM.

Under the NRHM Government of India has operationalised comprehensive rejuvenation of the Public Health System in partnership with the states. The thrust is on establishing fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system to provide preventive, promotive and curative services to the community. NRHM facilitates simultaneous action on collateral determinants of health like water, sanitation, education, nutrition, etc. All these measures have contributed to preventing routinely occurring diseases across the country.