

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:810
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011
TRAINING TO COMMUNITY MIDWIVES
Tandon Annu

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to associate community midwives as part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to train community midwives for medically safe non-institutional deliveries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) to (d): Government of India has taken the initiative to ensure universal coverage of all births with skilled attendance both in the institutions and in the community. A skilled birth attendant (SBA) refers exclusively to those health personnel proficient in midwifery, i.e. Doctors, Nurses and Auxillary Nurse Midwives(ANMs) who have been trained to be proficient in the skills necessary to manage normal deliveries and diagnose, manage or refer complications. However, community midwives (Community Dai) cannot be trained as skilled birth attendants; As such, they are not envisaged as primary providers of delivery care. However, the flexibility has been given to States to train them to fulfil roles as a "community resource" e.g. as helper to ANM in providing ante-natal, intra-natal and post-natal care to pregnant women which includes deliveries at Sub-Centres and at home; in birth preparedness, as a birth companion; arranging referral transport/ escorting the pregnant woman to the institutions for delivery, assisting in home-based newborn care, reporting births and deaths of neonates, infants and mothers etc., particularly in villages where there is no ASHA.