

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:863

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011

REMUNERATION TO ASHAS

Kumar Shri Shailendra;Viswanathan Shri P.

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the monthly remuneration of the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and bring them at par with State employees and Anganwadi workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to raise the insurance amount for ASHAs to five lakh rupees and to appoint Medical Officers for a term of five years in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) No. There is presently no such proposal. Payment of fixed monthly remuneration to ASHAs runs contrary to the approach of performance linked remuneration to ASHAs. The issue was discussed in the meeting of Mission Steering Group (MSG) of NRHM held on 21.6.2011 in which it was decided to continue with the present system of performance based incentive. However, it was decided that areas where incentivisation will increase the monthly take home money of ASHAs may be worked out.

The Ministry is making sincere efforts to increase the total monthly incentives to ASHAs. Recently, MSG has approved the proposal of delivery of contraceptives by ASHAs at the homes of beneficiaries and charge Rs. 1.00 for a pack of 3 condoms, Rs. 1.00 for an OCP cycle and Rs. 2.00 for an ECP from the beneficiaries for efforts made in distributing these reproductive commodities. The MSG has also approved a proposal for involving ASHAs in home based new born care and payment of incentives to ASHAs for the same.

(c)&(d) No. ASHAs have not been provided any insurance cover under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). However, ASHAs eligible under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) can avail such benefits.

The States prepare their Annual Programme Implementation Plan including the plan to engage contractual Medical Officers and their remuneration within the resource envelope communicated by Government of India, based on their felt needs and priorities. The appointment of Medical Officers in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres on contractual basis is done by States on annual basis, depending on the actual need and requirement at the healthcare facilities.