

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5857
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2012
APPOINTMENT OF ASHAS
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether the appointment of the ASHA workers was started under an ambitious scheme;
- (b) if so, the details of their functions;
- (c) whether a review has been made of the outcome achieved after the appointment of the ASHA workers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to further improve the functioning of the ASHA workers by providing sufficient resources and funds?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)& (b): One of the core strategies of the National Rural Health Mission was the launch of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), a female health volunteer selected at village level for every 1000 population who is expected to be the first port of call for any health related demands of deprived sections of the population, who find it difficult to access health services. ASHA is envisaged as a trained community health volunteer who acts as a link between Community and Health System. They facilitate access to referral services for pregnant women, mobilize community for universal immunization, new born care, prevention of water borne and communicable disease etc.

(c)& (d) :Findings of the study conducted by National Health System Resource Centre (NHSRC) inter-alia reveals that about 70% of the women who went for institutional delivery reported ASHA as the main motivator. The study also showed that nearly 86% of the mothers with children of age less than six months old received counselling from ASHAs for initiation of breast feeding and about 55% were given advice on delayed bathing of the new born and 72% on immunization.

(e): In order to improve the functioning of ASHAs, States have been supported with financial assistance for Training of ASHAs in different modules, for support structure at different levels and for additional performance linked incentives as per the requirements projected by the States in their State Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) which is approved by GoI based on the recommendations of National Programme Coordination Committee.