

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1050
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012
'ASHA' WORKERS FOR SANITATION FACILITIES
Das Shri Khagen

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to rope in 8.6 lakh Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) to improve sanitation facilities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any consultations have been held in this regard with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b): Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) puts strong emphasis on interpersonal communication and door to door contact recognizing it as a significant tool for creating awareness for sanitation in rural areas. As part of this strategy, field functionaries like the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) may be engaged as motivators for demand creation and for taking up behaviour change communication.

(c)&(d): A letter jointly signed by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was issued to the States for encouraging ASHAs to play a proactive role in making door to door contact and motivating village communities to construct and use toilets. An incentive of Rs.75/- per household toilet was also communicated to be provided to ASHAs for promoting toilet usage.