

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:419  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012  
ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVISTS  
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) whether the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) act as a crucial link between the community and health facilities;
- (b) if so, the details of services delivered by ASHAs under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) along with the incentives extended to them against delivery of each of these services;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed the incentive extended to ASHAs and is there any proposal to fix a minimum monthly honorarium for ASHAs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the current status of the proposal;
- (e) whether the incentive accruing to ASHAs from delivery of services on birth of a child is more than the incentive extended to her when she successfully motivates a family to adopt family planning method, leading to conflict of interest; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

(a): Yes.

(b): ASHAs perform a range of tasks in the areas of Maternal Health, Newborn and Child Health, Adolescent Health and Disease Control. Since ASHA is an honorary volunteer, she is eligible for performance based incentives offered under various national and state specific programmes. She is also compensated for her time in situations such as attending training programmes, monthly review meetings, and other meetings. The details of services delivered by ASHAs along with the incentives against the delivery of each activity finalized at the national level are placed at Annexure. There are also state specific incentives for ASHAs for range of services.

(c): The Government regularly reviews the ASHA incentives. There is no proposal at present for a minimum fixed monthly honorarium.

(d): Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) & (f): The incentive provided to the ASHA under the Janani Suraksha Yojana as per the Annexure is distributed as follows: Rs. 200 as incentive for motivation of pregnant women to deliver in an institution, Rs. 250 for transport arrangements for pregnant woman and Rs. 150 for incidental expenses if she also escorts the woman. ASHAs are entitled for various incentives under family planning programme also. In case of motivation for adopting permanent family planning methods, the incentive is Rs.200 for vasectomy, Rs.150 for tubectomy. In 18 high focus states (8 Empowered Action Group states, 8 North Eastern States including Sikkim, Gujarat and Haryana) ASHA is also provided with (a) Rs.500 for ensuring delay of at least two years in the first birth after marriage (b) Rs.500 for ensuring spacing of at least three years after the birth of the first child and (c) Rs.1000, if the couple opts for permanent method after not more than two children.

There is no evidence that the existing incentive structure is leading to promotion of large family size. In fact evidence suggests that ASHA is active in promoting the Family Planning methods.