

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1183  
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012  
RESEARCH ON ASHA  
Singh Shri Mahabali

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

- (a) whether the National Health System Resource Centre (NHSRC) had undertaken any research regarding ASHA between 2009-11;
- (b) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof;
- (c) the details of the total expenditure made on this research and the scientific principle of social science applied for this research;
- (d) the research institutions which officially guided and cooperated in this research including the number of research scholars included in this exercise; and
- (e) the details of local cultural aspects taken into account during the meeting with ASHA and the reasons for not getting this research done through some other research institution?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes.

(b): The Programme evaluation was conducted in eight states – Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The study was completed in the financial year 2010-2011. The findings of the evaluation show that states adapted the ASHA guidelines to suit their interpretation of the roles of ASHA and this affected the nature of support and training provided to ASHAs. Evaluation shows that vast majority of ASHAs are functional, irrespective of context, although there is a wide variation in the tasks that she does. Functionality and effectiveness are seen as related to three roles of ASHA which are that of facilitator, social mobilizer and community level care provider. The study concluded that for an ASHA to be effective, all three roles are important and complementary in nature. The functionality of ASHAs in one role is clearly linked with better outcomes in other two roles. The study recommended that, beyond provision of cash incentives, a greater support should be given to the provision of competency based training, the health rights dimension, an adequate supply of medicines, and mentoring and motivation to ASHAs.

(c): The total expenditure made on this research is Rs. 5554149 lakh. The evaluation used a mix of both methods of qualitative (comprising of in-depth interviews) and quantitative (comprising of cross sectional sample survey of ASHAs, ANMs, Women with infants up to six months and mothers with sick children up to two years of age) to study the processes and outputs.

(d): The evaluation was officially guided by the National ASHA Mentoring Group Members. The research institutions/organizations which conducted the study are - North East Regional Resource Centre (NERRC), Social Medical Partnership (SMP), OASIS, National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), Jana Vignana Vedika (JVV), Child in need institute (CINI), CEHAT, EKJUT, CHETNA, ICICI Centre for Child Health and Nutrition (ICCHN), State Health Resource Centre (SHRC) Chhattisgarh, Public Health Resource Network (PHRN) and Foundation for Research in Community Health (FRCH). Eighteen senior researchers and 179 investigators were involved in the study.

(e): Local aspects were addressed in the qualitative phase through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The institutions mentioned in (d) above were willing, available and recommended by National ASHA Mentoring Group.