

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:253

ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014

ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVISTS

Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad;Singh Shri Mahabali

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

- (a) the total number of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) appointed under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in the country along with the incentives/wages provided to them, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the performance of ASHAs in reducing various health problems including infant mortality rate/maternal mortality rate in the country and if so, the details along with the outcome thereof;
- (c) the total funds allocated/released/spent on ASHAs during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether certain workers` Unions have asked for payment of monthly honorarium to ASHA and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for further improvement of the functioning of the ASHA in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 253 FOR 7TH FEBRUARY, 2014

(a) The information on the total number of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) selected under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the incentives approved at the national level is at Annexure-I and Annexure -II respectively. States/UTs are at liberty to add to these incentives.

(b): Reduction of health problems including Infant mortality rate/maternal mortality rate is dependent on a number of factors. However, Review Mission reports and evaluation of ASHA programme in select states demonstrate that ASHAs have been effective in mobilisation for immunisation and in increasing institutional deliveries.

(c): The State/UT -wise details of approval and expenditure during each of the last three years is at Annexure -III.

(d) & (e): Requests have been received from ASHA workers including from ASHA workers of Punjab, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh for payment of monthly honorarium. The issue has been examined on many occasions and it has been decided to continue with the existing system of performance based incentives in line with the role envisaged for ASHAs under the Mission as honorary volunteers. However, Government has taken various steps to improve the incentive structure of ASHAs. Recently, activities for which ASHAs would get incentives have been expanded and the rates of existing incentives have also been enhanced. States have been given the flexibility to design appropriate incentives for ASHAs. A proposal for certification of ASHAs through NIOS has also been approved.

Public Health being a state subject, states have also been requested to:-

(i) identify ASHAs who aspire to obtain academic qualification for Class X or Class XII and to support their registration with the National Institute of Open School (NIOS)

(ii) give priority in admissions into ANM/GNM Training Schools to those ASHAs who are otherwise eligible

(iii) put in place ASHA rest rooms and grievance redressal mechanisms for ASHAs