

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:769

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015

ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVISTS

Basheer Shri E. T. Mohammed;Mondal Shri Sunil Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any study to assess the performance of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) employed under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the shortcomings noticed and action taken to remove these shortcomings;
- (c) whether the performance of ASHAs are monitored by the Government and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken for providing additional financial assistance to ASHAs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a): An ASHA evaluation was commissioned by the National ASHA Mentoring Group and coordinated by National Health System Resource Centre (NHSRC) in 16 States.

(b): The said evaluation was conducted in three rounds as follows:

Round one Assam, Bihar,
(2010-11) Odisha, Rajasthan,
Jharkhand, Andhra
Pradesh, Kerala
and West Bengal
Round two Madhya Pradesh,
(2011-2012) Uttar Pradesh
and Uttarakhand
Round three Delhi, Gujarat,
(2013-14) Haryana, Punjab
and Maharashtra

The key findings are summarised at Annexure -I and action taken to address some of shortcomings are at Annexure -II.

(c): Public health being a State subject, implementation of the ASHA programme lies within the domain of the State Governments. However, performances of ASHAs are monitored on a set of selected indicators related to tasks of ASHAs. Performance monitoring is used as a tool for supportive supervision by ASHA facilitators to identify poor / non-functional ASHAs and supporting them for improving their performance. Performance monitoring of ASHAs is currently being done in about 20 states on a regular basis. In all states, incentives amounts earned by ASHAs are used as a proxy to assess ASHA performance.

(d): In line with their role as honorary community volunteers, ASHAs receive only performance based incentives. There are currently about 30 activities approved at the national level. Further, States are also supported under NHM for providing state specific incentives to ASHAs. In December 2013, the Mission Steering Group of the National Health Mission not only approved the enhancement of rates of existing incentives to ASHAs but also approved new incentives including those for routine and recurring activities so as to enable each ASHA to earn at least Rs. 1000 per month subject to her performing the said activities.