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Title: Need to enhance incentives for ASHA workers engaged in Chamarajanagar parliamentary constituency and other parts of the country during the current financial year.

SHRI R. DHYUVANARAYANA (CHAMRAJANAGAR): One of the key strategies under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is having a Community Health Worker i.e. Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) for every village with a 1000 population or more in each State. This strategy will act as a link between the community and health care services and to ensure that the primary health care services are accessed by the rural poor. The implementation of ASHA scheme has gained significant momentum in recent years which is reflected on indicators like Ante Natal Check-up and immunisation, vaccination, spacing between births, promoting iodised salt and village sanitation etc. Drug kits are being provided to ASHAs. A comprehensive tracking system of pregnant women and children under five is being introduced to ensure follow up ANC and prevent immunization drop outs. ASHAs visit every household and make a sample survey of the residents of village to understand their health status. This way ASHA will come to know the villagers, the common diseases which are prevalent amongst the villagers, the number of pregnant women, the number of newborn, educational and socio economic status of different categories of people, the health status of weaker sections especially SCs/STs etc. All ASHAs will be involved in the Village Health and Sanitation Committee of the Panchayat either as members or as special invitees. ASHAs may coordinate with Gram Panchayats in developing the village health plan.

Under NRHM scheme, ASHA is a voluntary worker who will get performance oriented incentives. The generic compensation package is made for ASHA by linking her with different health programmes at state level. If she works as per the expected standards she would earn around Rs. 1067 per month.

Hence, in view of protecting the service of ASHAs, I would earnestly request Hon'ble Minister for Health, to take steps to increase incentives for each performances to protect the interests of ASHA workers in the current financial year itself with enhanced budgetary allocations in my Chamarajanagar parliamentary constituency and in other parts of the country as well.