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Title: Need to revise the remuneration of ASHA workers in the Country.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): The National Health Policy, recently approved by the Cabinet, aims at bolstering the provision of healthcare services in villages. However, it overlooks the service conditions of ASHA workers- the backbone of delivery of government health services in the country. They track mothers-to-be, register them at nearest health centre, monitor their health, motivate them to health check-ups, distribute iron supplements, ensure institutional deliveries, and after delivery, they get the children immunised.

Appointed one per 1,000 of population, the ASHA workers are paid on piecemeal basis – Rs. 40 for registering a pregnant woman, Rs.200-250 for each institutional delivery and Rs. 150 for each family planning procedure. Therefore, they get a variable monthly pay of Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500. As they are paid for the number of deliveries in Government hospitals only, many times, after months of monitoring, if a woman chooses private hospital for delivery, they lose out on their dues.

This affects their motivation and morale. Hence, I urge the Government to revise the rates at which ASHA workers are remunerated for their services so that they earn between Rs. 5000- and Rs. 10,000 per month.