

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1845

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006

APPOINTMENT OF ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVISTS

Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

- (a) the criteria followed for appointment of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), their main functions and the number of ASHAs presently working in various parts of the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is proposed to increase the number of ASHAs to cope up with the increasing demand;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which ASHAs would be appointed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) As per the generic guidelines issued to the states, the ASHA should be a married/widow/divorced woman, who is resident of the village, preferably in the age group of 25-45 years and with education level upto class-VIII. The ASHAs are to be selected through a community based process which involves the Gram Sabha, Village Health Committee, Self Help Groups, Anganwadi Institutions, the Block Nodal Officer, District Nodal Officer etc.

The functions of ASHA include, promotion of Universal Immunization, facilitate accessing of health service including referral and escort services for Reproductive and Child Health, health counseling and motivation for construction of House Hold Toilets etc. She will also work as a depot holder for essential medicines like Oral Dehydration Therapy, IFA Tablets, Chloroquine, disposable delivery kits, and contraceptives etc.

A statement showing number of ASHAs selected state-wise are given below:

S. No	State	Number of ASHA selected
1	Jharkhand	1416
2	Madhya Pradesh	2194
3	Rajasthan	20605
4	Bihar	29119
5	Uttaranchal	1206
6	Chhattisgarh	60631
7	Uttar Pradesh	9548
8	Orissa	11262
9	J & K	
10	Assam	8444

(b) & (c) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) envisages one ASHA for every one thousand population in every village in high focus States viz. Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Assam and Jammu & Kashmir. However, the other states are also free to have health link workers like ASHA, provided they are ready to meet the cost of their training and medical kits from the RCH funds provided to them.

(d) The Mission envisages selection of total 2.5 lakh ASHA out of which at least 40 % shall be selected during the first year of the Mission and the balance during the second and third year. As on date approximately 1.44 lakh ASHAs have been selected in various states.