

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:380
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
NRHM AND ICDS
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

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

- (a) whether the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) will now work together to integrate the different services for maximum impact;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to make anganwadis the focal point of all the mother and child related healthcare activities in the villages; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 380 FOR 10TH MAY, 2006

Yes, Sir. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) will work together to integrate the different services for maximum impact.

The NRHM, envisages a Sector Wide approach including initiatives in the areas of collateral health determinants like Nutrition, Sanitation, Safe Drinking water etc. A committee on inter-sectoral convergence has been set up to evolve a road map for convergence.

Under the NRHM the Government is seeking to make the Anganwadi Centres (AWC) the focal point of all maternal and child related health activities in the villages. The NRHM envisages a trained female voluntary community health worker known as Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every 1000 population. The functions of ASHA include, promotion of Immunization, referral and escort services for RCH and counseling on preventive and promotive health issues etc. The Anganwadi Worker (AWW) is associated with the selection as well as training of ASHA. While the AWC would provide anchorage to the ASHA in the form of a predefined place to work from, the ASHA would enhance the engagement of communities for seeking quality services from health delivery system and AWC shall be the locus of this engagement. A monthly Health day is also envisaged at every AWC wherein all health related activities including nutrition, immunization, counseling and advocacy etc. shall be conducted in the presence of the ANM and the AWW.