

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1133
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
VILLAGE HEALTH GUIDES
Mollah Shri Hannan

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

- (a) whether the services of Village Health Guides who received six months training are discontinued;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to engage the Village Health Guides whose services are discontinued in other rural health schemes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (b) Yes sir. A Committee of experts under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K.Umashanker, former Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration, was appointed in July 1997. The Committee reviewed the VHG Scheme in due consultation with various Departments, State Governments and Village Health Guide Associations. The Committee submitted its report in November, 1998 which stated that the Scheme was not serving any useful purpose at all and should be discontinued at the earliest. Accordingly, the scheme was discontinued as a centrally sponsored scheme from the 10th Plan i.e. from 31.3.2003. However, State Governments were conveyed that they were free to continue with the existing/amended version of the Scheme and if interested, may propose the necessary provision in their State plan. The States were paid the arrears as requested by them.

(b) to (e) The eligible Village Health Guides, as per the rules, are free to apply as community level health workers under the schemes of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) being appointed as community level health workers under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).