

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2091
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVISTS
Nandy Shri Amitava;Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) whether the Government has appointed professionals to monitor Rural Health Mission ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) presently working in the country, State-wise ;
- (d) whether any assessment has been made in regard to the functioning of ASHA; and
- (e) if so, the details of the observation made therein ?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The NRHM has an inbuilt, three pronged monitoring framework which includes internal monitoring, external surveys and community monitoring. Health professionals are involved in the monitoring of NRHM at all levels. At the Union level, eminent health professionals are members of the Mission Steering Group and Empowered Programme Committee which are the highest policy making bodies for NRHM. Similar mechanism also exists at state level. NRHM also involves health professionals, eminent NGOs and other resource institutions for mentoring of ASHA and for Community Actions. As part of external evaluation, Institute of Public Auditors of India has been allocated the concurrent evaluation of financial systems under NRHM in selected states.

(c) As on date over 3.48 lakh ASHA have been selected in the 18 high focus states and hilly, tribal and backward areas of the non-high focus states. The status of selection in various states is as per Annexure.

(d) & (e) Concurrent evaluation of ASHA initiative has been allocated to professional agencies in the states of UP, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and J & K.