

Accredited Social Health Activist in the community. She creates awareness on health and mobilizes the community towards local health planning, promotes good health practices and provides a minimum package of curative care and make timely referrals. She is a woman volunteer with minimum education up to eighth class and is compensated through performance based payment mechanism built into the programme.

(c) and (d) Yes. Common Review Mission I and II under NRHM and Joint Review Missions and Mid-Term review under RCH-II component of NRHM have been undertaken. The Reviews indicate that people in the villages find that ASHAs are playing a useful role in fulfilling their health care needs.

(e) ASHA sahyogini has been playing a vital role in improving the health status of vulnerable section of population in Rajasthan. Presently there are 42496 ASHA sahyogini in 31988 revenue villages. Total budget sanctioned for ASHA component for the year 2009-10 is Rs.41 crores.

National Urban Health Mission

3730. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to launch National Urban Health Mission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) A proposal in this regard is under consideration. After due deliberations, a decision will be taken in this regard.

Bio-medical waste treatment

3731. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has issued guidelines for disposal of bio-medical waste of health care facilities and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether such guidelines provide for common bio-medical waste treatment facilities in close vicinity and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how many such common treatment facilities have been established in the country; and
- (d) what are the major constraints in setting up such common treatment facilities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) National Guidelines on Hospital Waste Management were prepared and circulated to States and Union Territories by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in March, 2002. These guidelines have been prepared to enable hospitals to implement the Bio-Medical (Management