

Shortage of ASHA workers in the country

1726. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to Government norms there should be one Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) worker for every 1000 people;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is an estimated shortage of 74,000 ASHA workers in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) Yes, The general norm is 'One ASHA per 1000 population'. However in tribal, hilly, desert areas, the norm could be relaxed to one ASHA per large habitation.

- (b) No, There is no shortage of ASHA workers. The States have revised their targets.

Presently in country 8,20,585 (94.01%) ASHAs are selected against the proposed targets of 8,72,807 ASHAs by the States.

- (c) The revised increase in ASHA Target in current year (2010-11) Project Implementation Plan is as per projection. Selection process for remaining ASHA is going on in the States.

- (d) Government of India is monitoring the ASHA selection and pursuing the States for completing the targeted ASHA selection in current year.

Healthcare programme for adolescent girls

1727. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the 'Scheme for Menstrual Hygiene' which will provide access to high quality sanitary napkins for adolescent girls in rural areas;
- (b) whether only 150 districts will be covered initially and the timeline by which the rest of the country will be covered;