Special incentive scheme for ASHA workers

4270. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

^{*}Based on the data of NCRP (2006-08) and using M/I ratio of Mumbai PBCR.

- (a) whether Government has declared special incentive scheme for Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers involved in the population and birth rate control programme in rural areas; and
- (b) whether Government has included ASHA workers working under NRHM in any social security or health care insurance scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), ASHAs have been selected and engaged as community health volunteer to act as a link between community and health care facilities. Performance based monetary incentives are paid to ASHAs to undertake a set of approved activities under NRHM. Government has decided to use the services of ASHAs for counseling eligible couples for ensuring healthy spacing between births and to incentivize them for this activity.

(b) No.

Recommendations on universal health coverage

- 4271. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government appointed expert group for developing a plan to ensure universal health coverage has presented its recommendations to the National Advisory Council (NAC);
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the expert group has proposed substantial increase in spending on healthcare and providing free life saving medicines; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and stance of Government on the recommendations of the expert group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) Yes. In the 19th meeting of the National Advisory Council held on 21.03.2012 under the chairpersonship of Smt. Sonia Gandhi, a presentation was made by Prof. K.Srinath Reddy, Chairman of the High Level Expert Group (HLEG) constituted by the Planning commission on Universal Health Coverage on the salient features of the Report of the HLEG for the information of the NAC.

(c) and (d) Yes. The HLEG has recommended that the Government should increase public expenditure on health from the current level of about 1.2% of GDP to at least 2.5% by the end of the 12th plan and to at least 3% of the GDP by 2022. It has