



सत्यमेव जयते

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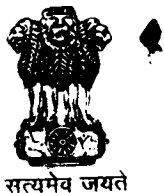
Sub: Engagement of Honorary Health Workers (ASHA) under NRHM

Dear Smt. Chakravarty,

Kindly refer to the discussions held in the Regional Review Meetings in the month of July, 2006 on the above-referred subject. NRHM provides for engagement of one Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every 1,000 population to serve as a link between the community and the rural health system. West Bengal being low focus State under NRHM due to better health indicators was initially not covered under the ASHA Scheme. The Government of India has recently allowed this activity in backward areas in low focus States.

2. We have now decided to take up the Scheme in the selected 74 backward blocks of the State. The programme will be done in phases and in the first phase 14 districts would be covered. The remaining blocks would be covered in 2007-08 and 2008-09. The following blocks have been selected for implementation in the first phase:

Name of Districts	Name of blocks to be covered	No. of ASHAs
Uttar Dinajpur	1. Goalpokhar I	245
	2. Goalpokhar II	226
Murshidabad	3. Samsherganj	139
	4. Suti II	129
Purulia	5. Jhalda II	124
	6. Bandwan	84
	7. Bagmundi	112
Paschim Midnapore	8. Nayagram	124
	9. Gopiballavpur	95
	10. Binpur II	146
Malda	11. Kaliachak III	198
Dakshin Dinajpur	12. Harirampur	125
	13. Kushmondi	175
South 24 Parganas	14. Canning II	196
Jalpaiguri	15. Kalchini	199
	16. Alipurduar II	192
North 24 Parganas	17. Sandeshkhali II	136
Nadia	18. Nakashipara	305
Darjeeling	19. Phansidewa	172
Birbhum	20. Murarai I	166
Bankura	21. Ranibandh	104
Coochbehar	22. Sitalkuchi	164
Total		3556



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3. The implementation of ASHA would involve selection, training and support to the ASHAs on a continuous basis for almost a year in order to enable them to effectively discharge their responsibilities. We have identified Child In Need Institute (CINI), Kolkata, which is also the Regional Resource Centre (RRC) to assist the Department in training and other activities. Similarly, Mother NGOs (MNGOs) which are working in different districts under the RCH-II Programme will assist the districts and the blocks in training and hand-holding support.

4. The selection of ASHA should be completed latest by **15th November, 2006**. You are requested to convene an urgent meeting with the BDO, BMOH and Sabhapati of the respective blocks and the District Core Team in order to apprise them of the scheme and for drawing of Plan of Action for selection and engagement of ASHAs. We have proposed a Committee for selection of ASHA, the constitution of which is given in the Guidelines enclosed. You are requested to constitute this Committee, so that the work on selection of ASHA can be started forthwith.

5. Kindly ensure that adequate publicity for inviting applications should be given in the local area so that all deserving candidates fulfilling the criteria may get an opportunity to apply. The application from the prospective candidates would be deposited with the Gram Panchayat. A separate register for documenting all the application so received should be maintained at the Gram Panchayat. The deadline for receipt of application may be fixed locally at your end keeping in mind that the entire selection process has to be completed by **15th November, 2006**. The final list of the selected candidates G.P. and village-wise should be submitted to the State by 30th November, 2006. A panel of 3 candidates for each village shall also have to be kept at the Gram Panchayat for any future vacancies that may arise.


6. The detailed implementation plan is being attached for your perusal. I seek your cooperation in the timely implementation of the Scheme in your district. I am endorsing a copy of this letter to Sabhadhipati and CMOH of your district.

Encl: Implementation guidelines

Smt. Nandini Chakravarty,
District Magistrate
Howrah

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,


(Dr. K. K. Bagchi)

Copy to: 1. Sabhadhipati, Howrah Zilla Parishad.
2. Chief Medical Officer of Health, Howrah.