

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION  
SWASTHYA BHAWAN, 1<sup>ST</sup>FLOOR, GRANTHAGAR BHAWAN  
GN-29, SECTOR-V, SALT LAKE  
KOLKATA-700091**

**Memo No: HFW/NRHM/404/2011-Pt-I/4672**

**Date: 05.09.2018**

**From: Mission Director, NHM**

**To: Chief Medical Officer of Health**

Alipurduar, Bankura, Basirhat HD, Birbhum, Bishnupur HD, Coochbehar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Diamond Harbour HD, Hooghly, Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Jhargram, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, Nandigram HD, North 24 Parganas, Paschim Bardhaman, Paschim Medinipur, Purba Bardhaman, Purba Medinipur, Purulia, Rampurhat HD, South 24 Parganas and Uttar Dinajpur District

**Sub: Regarding Involvement of ASHAs in Election Duty**

Sir/Madam,

This has reference to the different communications made by blocks regarding participation of ASHAs as Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for facilitating activities related to election and subsequent show cause issued to ASHAs for non-participation in SRER 2019. As discussed in Video Conference held on 28.08.18, majority of the districts have raised the concern regarding involvement of ASHAs as BLOs and other election related activities.

First and foremost, ASHAs are not "health worker"s employed by Govt. of West Bengal, but merely community level volunteers engaged by NHM for specific health related activities. So, they don't fall under the purview of Section 13B under RP Act 1950.

Moreover, in our earlier letter conveyed vide **Memo No. HFW/NRHM-664/2014/6301** dated **07.11.14** it has been clearly stated that ASHAs cannot be involved in activities related to SRER.

ASHAs are a ready pool of community volunteers engaged and nurtured by the DoH&FW. Involvement of ASHAs in any such activities may inadvertently lead to a situation where there may be a gradual shift of focus of ASHAs from core health issues, thereby defeating the objectives of NHM. Similarly, involving ASHAs in any activity other than health related issues may also jeopardize the delivery of critical health care services to the community.

Thus, considering the above mentioned issues, matter kindly be brought to the notice of DM & DEO for not involving ASHAs in any election related activities at any level.

This is for your information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,



**Mission Director, NHM**