

Minister of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi – 110 011



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Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss

MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure that my Ministry is coming out with a Newsletter on the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

Launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 12th April this year, the Mission is to cover all States and Union Territories in the country with special focus on 18 States with weaker health infrastructure and demographic indicators. It lays stress on reducing Maternal and Infant Mortality, universal access to public health services, prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, ensuring population stabilization, maintaining gender balance, revitalization of local and health traditions and promotion of healthy lifestyles. The Government is committed to increasing the outlay in the health sector from 0.9% to 2% of the GDP in the next few years. It is also proposed to have one woman Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) in each village across the high focus States. ASHA would act as a link between Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) and the village and be accountable to the Panchayat.

Under the overall umbrella of the NRHM, a number of programmes, especially the Reproductive & Child Health Programme (RCH-II), Immunization Programme, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Disease Control Programmes have been included. The areas of health, poverty, population and development are those on which the Government and the civil society need to work together. Maternal Mortality and the Infant Mortality are areas of serious concern. The goal of stabilization of the population alongwith empowerment of women is one of the important challenges before us. The National Rural Health Mission seeks to address these problems with the help and support of the civil society. The Mission is expected to bring about a paradigm shift in the health delivery system in the country. In this context, a dialogue with all stakeholders will be of immense value to the Mission in its strategies. I do hope that the Newsletter on NRHM will facilitate and accelerate this process.

I wish the Newsletter all success.

(Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss)

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Smt. PANABAKA LAKSHMI
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MINISTER OF STATE
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NIRMAN BHAVAN, NEW DELHI-110011

9th August, 2005

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that a Newsletter on the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is being launched from August, 2005 by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Nearly 700 million people live in 600,000 villages in the country. Providing them access to easy, affordable and quality healthcare through the National Rural Health Mission is a much-needed corrective step in improving the healthcare system in rural areas. The NRHM should go a long way in realizing our vision where the health needs of all citizens, especially women and children, are taken care of. I am sure that the rural women and children will benefit immensely from the NRHM.

Dissemination of information about the activities under the Mission to all sections of the civil society, including Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs, Private Practitioners, Associations/Institutions/Organizations as well as activists and social mobilizers is vital for the success of the Mission. Receiving feedbacks and suggestions on the implementation of the Mission is equally important in evolving strategies under the Mission. I am sure the Newsletter on NRHM will facilitate a dynamic two-way communication and serve as its mouthpiece.

I wish the Mission and its Newsletter all success.


(PANABAKA LAKSHMI)