

Press Note No. 144

Date: 12.04.2012

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 12.4.2012 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr.Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below :-

"I would like to place on record my vehement objection to the National Commission for Human Resources for Health (NCHRH) Bill, 2011, which has now been referred to the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare by the Rajya Sabha.

The new Bill effectively puts the leadership and decision making process with regard to medical, dental and paramedical education in the hands of about twenty five persons, all of whom are nominees of the Central Government. This undermines the powers of the State Governments, which are left with no role to play in policy issues related to health manpower planning, curriculum and course design as well as approval of new institutions offering courses in medicine and allied disciplines. Need based planning for medical, dental and paramedical manpower should follow regional and local demands. This would best be achieved only by giving adequate representation to the States in policy making bodies.

I firmly contend that the status quo may be maintained with regard to the functioning of the existing National and State Councils. These may be strengthened and improved with increased participation of the State Governments at the level of the National Council.

I, therefore, strongly reiterate my opposition to the NCHRH Bill which usurps the powers of the States in the critical area of health human resources by creating new structures which hit at the very root of federalism."

Issued by: Director, Information-Public Relations, Chennai-9.
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