

PRESS RELEASE

Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Thiru.Gulam Nabi Azad has chaired a meeting of Southern State Health Ministers and Health Secretaries at Chennai today (12.11.2009). Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Health Thiru S. Gandhi Selvan, Southern States Health Ministers, Union Health Secretary, Health Secretaries, Mission Directors and Senior Officers of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry and Lakshadweep participated in the Meeting. Implementation of National Rural Health Mission, Disease Control Programmes and Pradhan Manthri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) were reviewed during the meeting.

Hon'ble Union Health Minister in his opening remarks said that though the performance of the Southern States was better than the country average on many parameters, they should still improve their performance on institutional delivery and immunization coverage. Control of vector borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, and chikungunya should be given priority. The Hon'ble Minister impressed upon the states on the need to create a public health cadre with the necessary capacity to deal with all infectious diseases. He requested the states to develop a state human resources policy and recognize through incentives the hardships that doctors, nurses and paramedical persons go through when working in remote areas. He pointed out that the states should formulate their plans for NRHM so that investments are focused in backward areas or among people who have no access due to difficult geographical terrains or social prejudices. Finally, he stressed that the states must consider different options to fulfill the public desire for specialist services such as posting PG students to work in sub district and district hospitals for a period of six months.

Presentations were made by each state regarding their performance under NRHM and PMSSY. State specific innovative programmes were highlighted during the meeting.

Andhra Pradesh presented their experience in implementation of 104 services to reach services to the remote rural areas and their “Velugu” model for improving maternal nutrition. Karnataka during their presentation showcased their State sponsored “Madilu” scheme and the proposed scheme for home based neo natal care.

The factors responsible for Tamil Nadu’s successful implementation of NRHM as well as novel programmes such as Valaikappu Thittam (Bangle ceremony) and free diet to antenatal and postnatal mothers in the Primary Health Centres were discussed during the presentation.

The implementation of palliative care programmes and non-communicable disease control programmes using the ASHAs formed the highlight of Kerala’s presentation. Puducherry presented their well established health facilities and requested continued Central support for the effective implementation of holistic health care services. The unique features of Lakshadweep and the need to provide specialist care for the people were stressed by the Union Territory. Hindustan Latex Limited, project consultant to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (GOI) made a presentation on the progress of PMSSY works in the Southern States.

Sd./

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Principal Secretary to Government

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