Health Ministry makes presentation before National Advisory Council on providing universal healthcare

New Delhi: The Indian Health Ministry has made a presentation before the National Advisory Council (NAC) led by Congress President and United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi. Health Secretary P.K Pradhan made the presentation before the council on the basis of a report of the Planning Commission of India's high-level expert group on universal health coverage according to media reports.

The group was headed by Public Health Foundation of India President Srinath Reddy, who had also made a presentation before the NAC in March this year.

Indian Health Secretary P K Pradhan, and a member of NAC, speaking to Press Trust of India, said that members of council, in a meeting chaired by Sonia Gandhi, chairman of NAC, expressed their concerns over the cutback in allocation for healthcare sector from the earlier figure of 2.5% to 1.58% of the GDP.

The NAC has now set up a two-member internal working group who would try and work out a middle path acceptable to planning commission and health ministry within a month after meeting officials from Prime Minister's Office, Health Ministry and the plan panel.

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