

Draft National Health Bill, 2009: Working Draft for Feedback from Public

(Proposed by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India)

The process so far:

In January 2008 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, as the nodal ministry, formally initiated drafting of the National Health Bill, with the assistance of practising lawyers with expertise in the area of health rights and people's rights. The first draft was prepared in active consultation with Ministry's technical and administrative wings. It was then examined by an especially constituted Task Force comprising eminent lawyers, public health experts, medical professionals and public administrators from across the country. It was also presented before some select groups of experts from diverse fields. The feedback was used to continually revise and improve upon the original draft.

The current draft was presented to the Health Secretaries/ NRHM Mission Directors and other senior health officers of various State Governments in October 2008 at Puducherry. In January 2009 it was circulated to the States' Health Ministers at Central Council of Health & Family Welfare meeting in New Delhi.

While in coming months the State Governments would be providing their feedback and civil society/ stake holders consultations would be held at regional/ State levels for its further development, the draft is now being placed in public domain on this website of MoHFW also before all members of civil society and all the relevant stake-holders for their valuable comments and inputs.