

UN envoy seeks more investment in health

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

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Aug. 5: The international panel to review India's flagship National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has said that NRHM should be given an international profile and suggested that health ministers from some key countries may be invited to share the NRHM experience. The panel, chaired by special adviser to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Jeffrey Sachs, has called for more investment in the health sector.

"Investment in health is always a sound growth strategy. Hitherto, the public health sector was not able to deliver because of lack of investment. You cannot overspend in the health sector," said Prof. Sachs.

Expressing satisfaction over strides made under NRHM, especially in the area of reproductive and child health, development of health infrastructure and revamping the health system, Prof. Sachs described NRHM as "revival of hope in the world for the public health sector".

Union health minister Anbumani Ramadoss briefed the panel about the status of National Rural Health Mission and steps taken in the health sector.

Prof. Sachs emphasised the need for collection of innovations.