

APDA/GS/Misc/ 04

Dated Naharlagun 15th May 2010

To

The Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
Itanagar

Sub: **Shortfall in the Draft State Health Policy 2010 of A.P**

Sir,

With due honour, the central executive members of the APDA would like to draw your kind attention to the above subject for your kind consideration and necessary action. That sir, for the first time in history, with great vision, an endeavour has been initiated under your able leadership to take the health standards of the state to a greater height by drafting a Health Policy for the state. This noble step is commendable and appreciated by the APDA.

Unfortunately, the very purpose of drafting the Health Policy may not be achieved as the present draft which is about to be placed for cabinet approval is found inadequate in terms of the need of the present and the future health scenario of the state. The present draft was made hastily and lack credibility for the following reasons:-

1. The State Health Policy – 2010 of AP was drafted by involving few individuals only, within a very short period of time. Most of the senior officials of various branches of the health department were not taken into account. Feedback of other stakeholders like civil bodies and NGO^s were not taken either.
2. Open public debates / suggestions were not invited to look into the various short and long term implications of each components of the Policy as was done by the department of Education.

One out of the many deficiencies, the most embarrassing in the Draft Health Policy is in the area of **recruitment of Medical Officers**. In the initial draft, which was vetted by the department of Law on **08/03/2010**, the mode of recruitment of Doctors was recommended through APPSC which is in line with the existing APHS Rule 2000. **But just few days back, some modifications were inserted into the original draft, where two parallel modes of recruitment procedures are proposed solely to facilitate regularization of Medical Officers of NRHM & those working in PPP run hospitals. This fact may be seen at clause 16 (C); page no. 33 of the draft.** This is a total violation of the existing APHS Rule 2000, wherein it is clearly mentioned in Schedule III that all new recruitment of Doctor^s shall be through APPSC. **The department of Law in its observation to this modification of recruitment rules has pointed out that it amount to violation of the existing service rules which, if challenged, will not withstand the scrutiny of Law Court.**

In view of the above facts, the APDA is of the opinion that the present Draft Health Policy **should not be accepted** and a fresh Health Policy should be drafted involving all stake holders and properly debated in open platform before being tabled for approval by the Govt. Only then, the main objectives of the Health Policy will be achieved and it will become a great boon to the people of the entire state.

Your kind intervention is highly solicited.

(Dr T. Lollen)
President APDA

(Dr T. Kaki)
Gen Secy APDA