



Government of Rajasthan

**Speech of Shri Aimaduddin Ahmad, Health Minister
Rajasthan at the 20th South Asian International Fund
Raising Workshop (SAFRW)**

**dated August 9, 2009
Jaipur**

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1. I am delighted to be amidst you for the 20th South Asian International Fund Raising Workshop. Over the past decade there has been a significant increase in civil society and philanthropic organizations. This rise of civil society organizations has been accepted and welcomed across the globe. Some of the prominent NGOs: Amnesty International, Oxfam International, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace International, Human Rights Watch, the Sierra Club and the rest, have been doing what no other organizations and institutions are capable of doing - forcing the globalized world to observe certain minimum standards of humanity and behavior.
2. The emergence of this third force in society, as a way of revitalizing democracy, as more and more people have joined the health, environmental, peace and human rights groups like Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and Amnesty International rather than political parties has been well documented. The methods adopted by these global NGOs are based on the classical notion of Gandhian civil disobedience. There is a need to coordinate the health care philanthropy and civil society organizations. In this regard, this workshop of civil society organizations to impart critical skills and strategies for fund raising and communication is a welcome initiative.

3. India's health care system is one of the most complex in the world. As a federal country the responsibility of looking after the health of the citizens is on the State Government under the constitution. At the same time, the Govt. of India for the last 5 years has also assumed the responsibility for prioritizing health as an important component of human development. The Government launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005. It aims to provide quality healthcare for all and increase the expenditure on healthcare from 0.9 percent of GDP to 2-3 percent of GDP by 2012. During the 2009 interim budget, the Government has allocated US \$2.42 billion for NRHM.
4. Recent studies have indicated that health care is one of India's largest sectors, in terms of revenue and employment, and expanding rapidly. Currently, healthcare industry in India is estimated to be about US \$ 35 billion, and is estimated to reach over US \$ 75 billion by 2012 and US \$ 150 billion by 2017. The healthcare sector offers immense potential to healthcare players as the country witnesses a rise in the incidence of life-style-related and other diseases. A growing elderly population and increase in the per capita income are also driving forces for better healthcare facilities in the country.
5. Over the last five decades, India has built up a vast health infrastructure and manpower at primary, secondary and tertiary care in government, voluntary and private sectors. These institutions are manned by professionals and para-professionals trained in medical colleges. Currently, private sector health services range from those provided by large

corporate hospitals, smaller hospitals/ nursing homes to clinics/ dispensaries run by qualified personnel. Addressing the manpower crisis, Government is already in the process of setting six AIIMS – like institutions and upgrading 13 existing medical institutes, besides 60 new medical colleges and 225 nursing colleges as per the 11th Five Year Plan.

6. The main governance issues related to health sector in India are mobilization of physical infrastructure; access, accountability and transparency; issues related to human resource motivation and gender concerns. Access to healthcare is hindered not only by geographic, social and cost barriers, but also by inherent systemic and structural weaknesses of the public healthcare system.
7. Public health administration has become more and more complex in the last few years. There is significant resource flow through external funding by financial institutions like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Bilateral agencies of developed countries. These agencies lay major stress on system development, capacity building, sector reforms, financial management and proper monitoring and evaluation of programs. While these concepts find a prominent role in project formulation, their importance in implementation is still sub-optimal. This is again because of the absence of adequate professional and managerial competence among the programme managers at various levels.
8. The process of liberalization, privatization and globalization is fast changing various sectors of the economy and the industry. Healthcare industry too is witnessing major changes. As per recent surveys and studies by industry associations, Indian

healthcare industry is set for a major growth with revamp and radical changes in the service delivery model and outcome. This necessitates the need to have dynamic healthcare administrators, who will drive the industry to greater heights and glory. Medical tourism is expected to grow at about 25-30 percent annually. The key selling points of the medical tourism industry include Ayurveda, naturopathy and yoga as also its cost effectiveness and its combination with the attractions of tourism.

9. The fast growth in the healthcare sector has created various pockets of opportunities such as medical infrastructure, medical equipment industry, medical textile industry and clinical trials. The government along with participation from the private sector is planning to invest US\$ 1 billion to US\$ 2 billion in an effort to make India one of the top five global pharmaceutical innovation hubs by 2020. Currently only 10 percent of Indian population has health insurance, which means that there is a tremendous scope for growth in this area. The Indian health insurance business is growing at 50 percent. This sector is projected to grow to US\$ 5.75 billion by 2020.

10. An such, I must congratulate SAFRG for taking the lead to move this sector towards independence and sustainability. The SAFRG has been building capacity through its various programs and as an annual international conference such as this is a crowning glory to its unique efforts.

11. This conference- replete with best practices, case studies from abroad, an intellectual gathering of experts with diverse experience- is a wonderful opportunity to build the core of a

fundraising fraternity. The fraternity will then help boost the skills of organizations to do better and more effective resource mobilization.

12. I wish the conference all success. I would also like to thank the organisers for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts on this occasion.

Jai Hind.