

Title: Need to accord clearance to the proposal of Karnataka Government to avail of the PHRD World Bank grant in health sector - Laid.

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN) : Karnataka State has taken the initiative to formulate an initial project proposal in the health sector. The State has made significant improvements in the health sector, several health and nutrition indicators such as infant and maternal mortality rates remain unacceptably high. It has set up a task force, comprising several experts and NGOs, who have identified several crucial gaps especially in the area of primary health. The State desires to adopt a convergent strategy in the health sector and the project seeks to focus on a new approach to the establishment of an integrated primary health care system that encompasses health, nutrition and family welfare services supported by a well functioning referral systems. The new proposed project is a logical follow up of the health system project currently under implementation. The tentative project size is likely to be Rs.800 crores. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already sent the Technical Assistance grant proposal to the Department of Economic Affairs for approval. I urge upon the Hon. Finance Minister to clear this immediately and enable Karnataka to avail the PHRD World Bank grant amount Rs.3.17 crore towards Technical Assistance for project preparation.