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Title: Need to rejuvenate health care system in the country.

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COMBATORE): The private sector investment in health calls for a serious debate. The most important reasons for the privatization drive is the apparent lack of resources for the social sector and so called inefficiency of public sector health services.

The recommendations of the 'Bhore Committee' has provided the blue print for India's health care system. The evaluation of the National Tuberculosis Programme, the suggestions for an integrated delivery of health services through multi-purpose workers and to some extent the community health workers schemes are some instances in this regard.

The advent of health care insurance in India for profit and further private sector investment in health care can have social consequences that are more serious. The proposition of the total budget for health care mismatches the World Health Organization (WHO) specifications the share of health services in total plan outlay steadily declined to 3.3 percent in the First Plan to 1.5 percent in the Ninth Plan. The annual report of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare states that the public expenditure on health sector has been a little over 1.5 percent while WHO recommends at least 5 percent of GDP.

The situation warrants effective intervention which certainly does not mean the handing over of the health services to the private sector or intervention by insurance. The people still depend on the health centres and hospitals in public sector and it is this faith that gives hope for its rejuvenation. Government should come forward with appropriate action in this regard.