

Title: Need to look into the performance of health sector to make it more effective.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (JORHAT): Sir, the World Health Organisation (WHO) in a bid to provide a framework for a review of the health sector, covers a new area in its annual World Health Report. For the first time the Report conducts an analysis on the performance of the health care systems across the globe. This is significant as besides the usual parameters of the health status in various countries and the level of public health, it has also taken into account health inequalities or disparities within the population in each country, and the distribution of the health system's financial burden within the population.

In addition, it has considered the responsiveness of the health care system, patient satisfaction and the functioning of the system and the distribution of the responsiveness within the population, or how well people of varying economic status find they are served by the health system.

India has fared poorly in almost every parameter – its ranking ranging from 108 for the level of responsiveness of the health care system to 118 for the performance in terms of overall health status to 133 in terms of health expenditure per capita and 153 in terms of health inequalities. Thus, except in one parameter, fairness in financial contribution where WHO ranks India 42 in the category, her performance causes concern and worry to the nation. Thus the Report does not take as credible the nation's determination to give 'Health for All in the Year 2000'. It is time, the Government took serious note of the Report's analysis so that the performance at least improves in every parameter appreciably.