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NAC reprimands govt over health scheme

Sonia Gandhi-led National Advisory Council (NAC) has reprimanded the UPA government for not providing adequate funds for public health the biggest roadblock for implementing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) scheme.

In the first two years of the 12th five-year plan, the planning commission had allocated ₹ 50,165 crore, which the council says has not been “encouraging”.

The council was also skeptical that whether the government would be able to provide ₹ 1,70,000 crore in the remaining three years of the plan. “While this may look as unreasonable jump for the ministry to absorb, it should not become the reason for the health sector to the starved,” the NAC said in its recommendation.

To make the best use of the available resources, the council had asked the health ministry to create an incentive fund for states to perform well and comply with the central government conditions. This should also act as reward for good work.

The NAC has also asked the ministry to create an innovation fund to be accessed by state governments that are keen to pilot UHC or other state-specific health programme.

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