No plan to corporatise health system: Planning Commission

New Delhi, Aug 9, 2012, DHNS

The Planning Commission on Thursday said it had no intention of corporatising the public health system in the 12th plan period as had been made out by a group of public health practitioners.

A day after public health specialists and members of the former high level expert group (HLEG) on health appointed by the Planning Commission cried foul on the commission’s plan to rope in private sector in a big way to provide universal health care, commission's deputy chairperson Montek Singh Ahluwalia told some of the HLEG members that the commission’s aim would be to strengthen district hospitals and improve public health system rather than involving the private sector in providing primary and secondary care.

Besides the public health specialists, the Union Health Ministry, too, has certain objections on the draft chapter on health in the 12th plan.

The chapter would now be rewritten based on the comments received from the health ministry and suggestions sent by the members of the former HLEG as well.

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as other public health specialists, sources said, adding that a meeting was planned next week to discuss the changes.

Emphasising that Planning Commission did not have any intention of weakening the public healthcare system, Ahluwalia said that the panel was open to suggestions from public health specialists.

Quoting the draft chapter, the public health specialists on Wednesday claimed that Planning Commission had proposed a new formulation in the 12th plan by which the government would, overtime, confine itself to providing a small package of services while virtually all clinical services would be opened up for the corporatised private sector.
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