

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

12.1 INTRODUCTION

Various International Organizations and United Nations Agencies continued to provide significant technical and material support for many Health and Family Welfare programmes in the country. The status of support from various International agencies is discussed in this chapter.

12.2 WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

World Health Organization (WHO) is one of the main UN agencies collaborating in the Health Sector with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. WHO provides technical support in the major areas of Health & Family Welfare programmes and health care facilities in the country. Activities under WHO are funded through two sources.

The Country Budget which comes out of contributions made by member countries and Extra Budgetary Resources which comes from (a) donations from various sources for general or specific aspects of health; and (b) funds routed through the WHO to countries by other member countries or institutes/agencies. India is the largest beneficiary of the country budget within the South East Asia Region. The budget is operated on a biennium basis, calendar year wise.

12.2.1 Nodal Functions of WHO

i. **World Health Assembly:** The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the most important annual event of the World Health Organization. The WHA is held once every year and deliberates various draft resolutions that are put up for its approval by the Executive Board of WHO. It is the highest policy making body of World Health Organization where all member countries are represented by high-level delegations.

The 66th WHA was held in May, 2013 at Geneva and a high level delegation comprising of officials of this Ministry under the leadership of Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare attended. The 66th WHA, inter-alia, discussed the following agenda items and the resolutions were adopted on some of the agenda items:-

- WHO reform
- *Programme and Budget:* Implementation of Programme Budget 2012-13, Draft Twelfth General Programme of Work, Proposed Programme Budget 2014-15
- *Non-communicable Diseases:* Draft comprehensive Global Monitoring framework and targets for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases 2013-20, Draft Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-20, Draft Action Plan for the Prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment 2014-19, Disability etc.
- *Promoting Health through the Life Course:* Monitoring the achievement of the Health-related Millennium Development Goals, Health in the Post 2015 Development agenda, follow-up actions to the recommendations of the high-level commission convened to advance women's and children's health, Social determinants of health.
- *Preparedness, Surveillance and Response:* Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: Sharing of Influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits, Poliomyelitis: intensification of the Global Eradication initiative.

- *Communicable Diseases:* Global Vaccine Action Plan, Neglected Tropical Diseases, Malaria.
 - *Health System:* Substandard / spurious / falsely-labeled / falsified / counterfeit medical products, follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination, Universal Health Coverage, The health workforce: advances in responding to shortage and migration, and in preparing for emerging needs, e-Health and health Internet domain names.
- ii. **Meeting of Ministers of Health and Regional Committee of WHO South East Asia Regional Countries:** The Health Ministers' Meeting (HMM) and the Regional Committee (RC) Meeting of WHO-SEAR countries are held annually. HMM provides a forum for Health Ministers to discuss important health issues in the region as well as for forging bilateral arrangements. The Regional Committee is a forum to review progress made on health issues and to lay down the roadmap for future action.

The 31st WHO-SEAR Health Ministers Meeting (HMM) was held in New Delhi on 10th September 2013, followed by the Sixty-sixth Session of the WHO Regional Committee (RC) for South-East Asia during 11th-13th September, 2013 at New Delhi.

Various agenda items were discussed during the 31st WHO-SEAR Health Ministers Meeting (HMM) and the 66th Session of the WHO Regional Committee (RC) for South-East Asia and resolutions were adopted on some of these agenda items. Some of the important agenda items discussed during these Sessions are:

31st WHO-SEAR Health Ministers Meeting (HMM):

- Review of Yogyakarta Declaration on Ageing and Health and all other previous HMM declaration/ follow-up actions on the decision and recommendation of the Thirteenth Meeting of Ministers of Health.
- New Delhi Declaration on High Blood Pressure.
- Health in the Post 2015 Development agenda.

66th Session of the WHO Regional Committee (RC):

- Implementation of Programme Budget 2012-13
- 12th General Programme of Work (GPW) and Proposed Programme Budget 2014 - 2015
- WHO-Reform: financing dialogue and development of Programme Budget 2016 - 2017
- Technical Discussions on Universal Health Coverage
- Selection of a subject for the technical discussions to be held prior to the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Regional Committee
- Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)
- Measles elimination and rubella control in SEA Region
- Regional Action Plan and Targets for Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (2013-2020).
- Reports of WHO Global working/advisory groups: Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework: (PIPFW), Progress Report on Malaria
- Challenges in Polio Eradication
- 2012: Year of Intensification of Routine Immunization in the South-East Asia Region: Framework for Increasing and Sustaining Coverage
- National Essential Drug Policy Including rational use of Medicines
- Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing & Coordination
- Nomination of Regional Director
- Revision to the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee of SEA
- Important issues arising out of the Sixty-sixth World Health Assembly and the 132nd and 133rd Sessions of the WHO Executive Board
- UNICEF / UNDP / World bank / WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases: Joint Coordinating Board (JCB) - Report on attendance at JCB in 2013

- UNDCP / UNFPA / UNICEF / WHO / World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP): Policy and a Coordination Committee (PCC) - Report on attendance at PCC in 2013 and nomination of a member in place of Bhutan whose term was expiring on 31st December, 2013
 - Election to the post of Regional Director, WHO-SEARO.
- iii. **Session of the Executive Board of WHO:** The Executive Board is a Governing Body of WHO, composed of 34 individuals technically qualified in the field of health, each one designated by a Member State elected to do so by the World Health Assembly. Member States are elected for three-year term. The main functions of the Executive Board are to give effect to the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly, to advise it and generally to facilitate its work. The Board meets at least twice a year; the main meeting is normally held in January, with a second shorter meeting in May, immediately after the Health Assembly.

The 132nd Session of the Executive Board of WHO was held in January, 2013 at Geneva and Indian delegation comprising of Shri Keshav Desiraju, then Special Secretary (Health) and Shri Amal Pusp, Director (IH) attended the Session.

The 133rd Session of the Executive Board of WHO was held in May, 2013 at Geneva immediately after the World Health Assembly and PMI, Geneva represented on behalf of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The 134th Session of the Executive Board of WHO was held in January, 2014 at Geneva and Indian delegation comprising of Shri C. K. Mishra, Additional Secretary (Health) and Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh, the then Adviser (IH) attended the session.

Various important agenda items were discussed during the meeting and resolutions were adopted on some of these agenda items. Most importantly, the EB ratified the nomination of Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh, the Indian candidate elected to the post of Regional Director (RD), WHO South East Asia Region (SEAR) during 66th session of Regional Committee of WHO SEAR in September, 2013.

iv. The Regional Meeting on implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) was held in New Delhi during 23 - 26 July, 2013. The focus of the WHO-FCTC Regional Meeting was on regional achievements and challenges, based on implementation experience of the parties and International Development Partners, such as, the UNDP, UNCTAD, UN-WOMEN and also the Civil Society organizations active in the Region, like the World Lung Foundation.

12.2.2 Government of India contribution to WHO

As a member country of WHO, India makes regular contribution to WHO for each biennium. A WHO biennium commences in January of the first year of the biennium and ends in December of the second year of the biennium.

The Assessed Contribution payable by Government of India to WHO is decided on the basis of UN Scale of Assessment. For the biennium 2014-2015, the scale of assessment for India has been revised from the existing scale of 0.5340 to 0.666. India's Assessed Contribution for the biennium 2014-2015 stands at USD 15,46,785 + CHF 14,50,884 and Voluntary Contribution of USD 55,000 and USD 35,000 towards the WHO / UNICEF / UNDP / World Bank's Special Programme for Research & Training in Tropical Diseases Research (TDR) and UNDP / UNFPO / WHO / World Bank Special.

Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) respectively. The first installment of Government of India's contribution to WHO for the biennium 2014 - 2015 amounting to USD 15,46,785 + CHF 14,50,884 (Assessed Contribution) and USD 90,000 (Voluntary Contribution) has been paid in February, 2014.

India has remitted Euro 7,56,570 towards membership fee to International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Lyon, France for the year 2013 in March, 2014.

12.2.3 Government of India/World Health Organization collaborative Activities

WHO funding is available for taking services of the experts on contractual basis on specific terms and

references; training within and outside the country; holding of workshops, seminars and meetings for raising awareness or exchange of information and supplies of medical equipment, viz: (i) Technical Services Agreement; (ii) Fellowship; (iii) Agreement for Performance of Work (APW); (iv) Direct Financial Cooperation (DFC) and (v) Supplies and Equipment etc.

12.3 SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- I. The election for the post of Regional Director, WHO-SEAR Office was held on 12th September, 2013 at the 66th Regional Committee Meeting of WHO-SEAR. India had nominated Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh as a candidate from India for election to the post of Regional Director. There were three candidates in the election to the post of Regional Director, WHO-SEARO viz. Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh from India, Dr. Syed Modasser Ali from Bangladesh and Dr. Myint Htwe from Myanmar. India's candidate Dr. Poonam Khetrapal has been elected as the Regional Director of the South-East Asia Regional Office of the WHO in New Delhi for the next 5 years. Her appointment was ratified on 1st February, 2014. India had not held this position since 1967. This is indeed a major achievement for India.
- II. India hosted the 31st WHO - South East Asia Region (SEAR) Health Ministers Meeting on 10th September, 2013 in New Delhi. The Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the meeting. Important agenda items on Health issues concerning SEAR countries were discussed during the meeting. New Delhi declaration on High Blood Pressure was adopted.
- III. India hosted the 2nd BRICS Health Ministers Meeting (HMM) during 10th - 11th January, 2013 at New Delhi. During the BRICS Health Ministers Meeting, the Action Plan i.r.o. 5 Thematic Areas viz. (i) Strengthening health surveillance system (ii) Strategic Health Technologies, with a focus on Communicable and Non-communicable Disease (iii) Medical Technologies (iv) Drug Discovery and Development (v) Reducing NCD Risk factors, prevention and health promotion and Universal Health Coverage were finalized and adopted.

Health Ministers also adopted the Delhi Communique calling for increased collaboration amongst BRICS countries in the sphere of health and for renewed efforts to combat the threats posed by various diseases.

- IV. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare released an additional US \$ 50,000 in March 2013 towards the pooled fund of WHO Reforms as a special one-time measure.

12.4 AIRPORT HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS / PORT HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

Airport Health Organization, Port Health Organizations and Airport and Border Quarantine Center (APHOs/PHOs/ABQC) are subordinate offices of the Directorate General of Health Services. At present, there are 9 PHOs and 5 APHOs, established at all major International Airports and Ports and one Border Quarantine Centre at Attari Border, Amritsar. In addition to these, the Health Offices at Bangalore and Hyderabad Airports and Tuticorin Port have also been established and started functioning in full swing and action has been taken to set up health offices (APHOs) at Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Trivandrum Airports. The recruitment of contractual staff at these 3 APHOs is in advanced stage. An EFC proposal for strengthening 21 existing (10 APHOs, 10 PHOs and 1 ABQC) and to establish health offices at 23 POEs (15 Airports, 2 Ports and 6 Airport and Border Crossings), is under consideration.

These are statutory organizations and are discharging their regulatory functions, as delineated under the Indian Aircraft (Public Health) Rules, 1954 and Port Health Rules, 1955, respectively. Apart from this India is also signatory to the International Health Regulations, framed by WHO and therefore, it is obligatory on our part to implement these regulations. Accordingly, both Indian Aircraft Public Health Rules as well as Indian Port Health Rules have been framed in agreement with the International Health Regulations.

Main objective of the APHO/PHOs is to prevent the spread of infectious diseases of epidemic proportions from one country to another, with minimum interference to the world traffic. Some of the important functions of these organizations are Health Screening of International Passengers, Quarantine, Clearance of

Dead Bodies, Supervision of Airport Sanitation, Vaccination to International Passengers, Vector Control, etc. Apart from this, issuance of Ship Sanitation Certificate is another major responsibility at International Ports.

WHO has notified a list of Yellow Fever Endemic Countries, under IHR and any person coming to India from these notified endemic countries is required to possess valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate, failing which, such passengers are quarantined for a maximum period of six days. In the light of changing global health scenario, existing IHR have been revised by WHO (IHR 2005) and these new IHR have come into effect from June, 2007. In order to revise our own rules, in tune with IHR, a number of workshops have been organized by Directorate General of Health Services

and finally, the amended draft Rules are under final stage of approval from Law Ministry.

For development of core capacities at all the Points Of Entry (POEs) for dealing with Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), task force meeting of all the stakeholders from all the disciplines, including Radio Nuclear, Chemical, Atomic and Zoonosis have been held and the process of development of Contingency Plans and Capacity Building at all the POEs has been initiated. Contingency Plans of POEs have been shared with the stakeholders. After implementation of Food Safety & Standards Act 2006, the VIP Food related function has been authorized and is being performed by POEs. Designated Points of Entry (POEs) Health Officers have been notified as designated offices for the purpose of food safety and licensing at POEs.

Port Health Organizations for the Period 1 January 2013 - 31 March 2014

Sl. No.		PHO, Marmagoa	PHO, Chennai	PHO, Vishakha-patnam	PHO, Kolkata	PHO, JNPT Sheva	PHO, Mumbai	PHO, Tuticorin	PHO, Cochin	PHO, Kandla
1	No. of Ships Arrived	310	2323	1782		1709	1872	1260	1304	414 KP 332 MP 82
2	No. of Ships given health clearance	310	1571	1782	2589	1709	1872	1260	1304	414 KP 332 MP 82
3	No. of Ships given free Pratique	210	1571	1496	River Pilot, KoPT is authorised	NA	105	1111	1258	102
4	No. of Ships Given Radio Free Pratique	210	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	46	220
5	No. of Ships quarantined	1	NA	NIL	0	16	NIL	0	NIL	NIL
6	No. of Ships disinfected	NIL	NA	86	0	NA	15	17	NIL	82
7	No. of Ships issued Sanitary Control Certificate	1	NA	NA	0	85	NIL	0	NIL	12
8	No. of Ships issued Sanitary Control Exemption Certificate	58	91	NA	179	NA	660	175	122	152
9	No. of Yellow Fever Vaccinations Given	1067	4287	1888	3327	NA	21304	0	5851	220
10	No. of Sanitary Inspections	310	NA	NA	NIL	NA	NIL	0	1034	414
11	No. of Imported food samples lifted	25	NA	NIL	Now under jurisdiction of FSSAI	NA	NIL	0	852	1

12	No. of Water samples lifted	1	12	NA	8	NA	53	144	8	NIL
13	No. of Imported Edible Oil samples lifted	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	57
14	No. of Dead Bodies given clearance	1	NIL	2	0	NA	4(death on board)	0	2	NIL
15	No. of entomological surveys undertaken	4	3	NA	3	NA	NIL	0	NIL	3
16	No. of Medical Chests Inspected	13	48	106	81	NA	133	43	48	21
17	No. of passengers medically Examined	19200	31699	31747	16319	NA	NIL	0	354783	NIL
18	No. of crew medically examined	15794	NA	NA	56256	NA	NIL	374	41181	9305
19	No. of medical emergencies attended	NIL	NA	NA	0	NA	NIL	0	12	7
20	No. of Rodent Screening of Ships from Plague Endemic Areas	NIL	NA	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	NIL	138

Data Highlights in Yellow is only for the period 1 January 2013 - 31 December, 2013

NA-Data not Available NIL- Data is NIL

Airport Health Organizations for the Period 1 January 2013 - 31 March 2014

S. No.		APHO, Delhi	APHO, Thiruchirapally	APHO, Kolkata	APHO, Mumbai	APHO, Chennai
1	Flights Arrived/Inspected	31955	3142/730	8769	23141	
2	Aircrafts Disinsected	Aircraft Disinsection in case of Death on Board, on demand of airlines & if GD is not there or conveyance not disinsected by Airlines	3142	7189	13550	
3	Surveillance of International Passengers and Crew for YF	Done by Immigration Department	Yes	Done by Immigration	4139111	
4	Quarantine of Passengers	283	NIL	NIL	11	
5	Yellow Fever Vaccinations	5166	NIL	1127	14678	
6	Clearance of Dead Bodies	937	228	87	441	
7	VVIP Food Surveillance	44	NIL	17	NIL	
8	Medical and Flight Emergencies	1 Mock Drill	12	20	9	
9	Vector Surveillance	Pre-Monsoon & Post-Monsoon + Supervision	For Aedes Aegypti Done	1296	Pre and Post Monsoon	
10	Sanitary Inspection	Only Supervision	24	1260	Yes	
11	Food Establishments Inspected	Not being done after August 2011	12	360	NIL	

NA- Data Not Available NIL- Data is NIL

12.5 CUSTOM DUTY EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

During 2013-14, this Ministry has issued one time Customs Duty Exemption Certificates in favour of -

- i. North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Mawdiangdiang, Shillong (Meghalaya);
- ii. Two ESI Medical College / Hospitals: (i) ESIC Medical College and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science & Research, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka & (ii) ESI Hospital, Peenya, Bengaluru, Karnataka;
- iii. Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, New Delhi;
- iv. Lady Hardinge Medical College & Smt. S.K. Hospital, New Delhi;
- v. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Sijua, Post-Dumduma, Bhubaneswar (Odisha);
- vi. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jodhpur (Rajasthan);
- vii. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Rishikesh (Uttarakhand);
- viii. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal-462 024 (Madhya Pradesh);
- ix. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Patna (Bihar); and
- x. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Raipur (Chhattisgarh).

12.6 FOREIGN TRAVEL BY SENIOR OFFICERS

For the year 2013-14, a provision of Rs. 3,10,50,000/- (after 10% austerity cut) was made against Foreign Travel Expenses (Revised Estimate) under Non-Plan. Out of this, the expenditure till 31st March, 2014 is Rs. 1,57,00,000/- (approx.).

12.7 VISIT ON FELLOWSHIP / CONFERENCE ABROAD

During the period under report, 159 medical personnel were permitted to participate in International conference / symposia etc. abroad, including 18 medical personnel from CHS cadre who were granted financial assistance

subject to a maximum of Rs. One (1) lakh each under CHS Assistance Scheme to attend seminars / conferences abroad in order to acquaint themselves with the latest developments in the field of medicine and surgery in other countries and to exchange views with their counterparts.

12.8 AGREEMENTS / MOUs

- i. An MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh on cooperation in the field of health sector was signed on 12th February, 2013;
- ii. An MoU between the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland on cooperation in the field of health sector was signed on 19th May, 2013;
- iii. An MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Yemen on cooperation in the field of health and medicine was signed on 09th June, 2013;
- iv. An MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Indonesia on cooperation in the field of health and medicine was signed on 11th October, 2013;
- v. An Agreement between the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India and the National Trauma Research Institute (NTRI), Government of Victoria, Australia on collaboration in Road Traffic Injury Prevention & Control, Management of Trauma, Trauma System Development and Emergency (Trauma Care) Medical Services was signed on 16th November, 2013;
- vi. An MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Maldives on cooperation in the field of health was signed on 02nd January, 2014;
- vii. An MoU between the Government of India and the Government of The Netherlands on cooperation in the field of healthcare and public health was signed on 30th January, 2014 and

viii. A Statement of Intent (SoI) between the Government of India and the Government of USA on cooperation in the field of medical products was signed on 10th February, 2014.

12.9 MEETINGS / CONFERENCES

i. 4th meeting of the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Joint Working Group (JWG) to discuss various trilateral health issues was held in New Delhi on 11th January, 2013;

ii. A meeting between Ms. Anna Soubry, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, United Kingdom and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss various issues associated with India-UK MoU / Agreement on health, primary healthcare and infectious disease control was held in New Delhi on 14th January, 2013;

iii. A meeting between Hon. LormusBundhoo, Minister of Health and Quality of Life, Republic of Mauritius and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss issues related to health sector was held in New Delhi on 14th January, 2013;

iv. 1st South Asian Autism Network (SAAN) Conference inaugurated by Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, National Advisory Council was hosted by India to discuss issues associated with Autism and developmental disorders in New Delhi on 11th February, 2013;

v. 1st India - United Kingdom Health Policy Forum Workshop for continuation of cooperation and enhancement of partnership across the health space between the two countries was held in New Delhi on 21-22 February, 2013;

vi. A meeting between Dr. Sergio G.C. Lobo, Hon'ble Minister of Health of Timor-Leste and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral issues related to health sector was held in New Delhi on 06th March, 2013;

vii. A meeting between Mr. Alexandre Manguale, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Mozambique and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral issues related to health sector was held in New Delhi on 18th March, 2013;

viii. A meeting between H.E. Mr. Tonio Borg, European Commissioner (Minister) for Health and Consumer Policy, European Commission and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral issues related to health sector was held in New Delhi on 11th April, 2013;

ix. A meeting between Mr. Daniel Bahr, Federal Minister for Health, Germany and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral issues related to health sector was held in New Delhi on 29th April, 2013;

x. A meeting between H.E. Alain Berset, Minister of Health, Switzerland and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral issues related to health sector was held in Geneva, Switzerland on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly on 20th May, 2013;

xi. A meeting between Ms. Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of State for Health & Human Services, USA and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral issues related to health sector was held in Geneva, Switzerland on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly on 21st May, 2013;

xii. Separate bilateral meetings between Hon'ble HFM and the respective Health Ministers of China and Afghanistan were held on the sidelines of World Health Assembly to discuss bilateral health issues at Geneva, Switzerland on 21st May, 2013;

xiii. A meeting between H.E. Dr. Neil Sharma, Minister for Health, Fiji and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral issues related to health sector was held in New Delhi on 31st May, 2013;

xiv. A meeting between H.E. Dr. Ahmed Qasim Al-Anisi, Minister for Health, Yemen and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral issues related to health sector was held in New Delhi on 04th July, 2013;

xv. Separate bilateral meetings between Hon'ble HFM and his counterparts from Indonesia, Nepal & Maldives were held to discuss bilateral health issues at Nirman Bhawan on 11th September, 2013;

- xvi. A meeting between H.E. Lyonpo Tandin Wangchuk, Minister for Health, Bhutan and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral issues related to health sector was held in New Delhi on 13th September, 2013;
- xvii. 6th meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) constituted under the MoU signed between India and Sweden on Health was held in New Delhi on 04th October, 2013;
- xviii. 4th meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Technical Committee on Health and Population Activities was hosted by India for two days in New Delhi on 09th and 10th October, 2013;
- xix. 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) constituted under the MoU signed between India and Mozambique on Health was held in New Delhi on 25th October, 2013;
- xx. 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) constituted under the MoU signed between India and Kuwait on Medical Cooperation was held in Kuwait on 10-11 November, 2013.
- xxi. A meeting between H.E. Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, Minister for Health, Vietnam and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral issues related to health sector was held in New Delhi on 12th December, 2013.
- xxii. A meeting between H.E. Ms. Edith I. Schippers, Minister for Health, Welfare & Sport of The Netherlands and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral issues related to health sector was held in New Delhi on 30th January, 2014. This was followed by signing of a MoU between the Government of India and the Government of The Netherlands on cooperation in the field of healthcare and public health.
- xxiii. A meeting between H.E. Ms. Margaret Hamburg, Commissioner of US Food & Drug Administration, USA and Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss various issues related to drug regulatory matters was held in New Delhi on 10th February, 2014.
- xxiv. A meeting between H.E. Ms. Una O'Brien, Health Secretary of the United Kingdom and Secretary (H&FW) to discuss various issues associated with the identified areas of cooperation in the health sector was held in New Delhi on 24th February, 2014.
- xxv. 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) constituted under the MoU signed between India and Bangladesh on cooperation in the fields of Health & Medical Sciences was held in New Delhi on 26th February, 2014.
- xxvi. Ministerial/Official bilateral meeting between India and Sri Lanka, Guinea, Congo, Japan & Venezuela were also held with a view to enhancing bilateral cooperation in the Health Sector during the year 2013-14.

12.10 PERMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

In the year 2013-14, permissions were granted to 146 Organizations/Institutions for holding health related International Conferences in India.

