

Interactive Discussion with Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, April 30 2020

Prayas participated in an interactive discussion with Hon'ble minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan, on COVID-19 issues and co-chaired by Mr Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, along with leading Civil Society Organizations like Tata Trust, B&MG Foundation, Sulabh, Akshay Patra etc. Dr Harsh Vardhan appreciated the efforts and activities being carried out by Prayas and assured that the issues raised during the meeting would be resolved. Mr Amod K Kanth, General Secretary, Prayas raised the following points during the discussion:

- On behalf of 92000, we congratulate the Hon'ble Health Minister as well as NITI Aayog for their initiatives.
- There should be seamless participation of CSOs in all states to assist the Government during this pandemic.
- Helpline services such as Childline (1098) could be utilised to assist vulnerable children and their families.
- There are 9000 Child Care Institutions in India, besides other institutional care facilities for vulnerable women and children which could be utilised for delivery of services to the poor and vulnerable.
- Collaborations between government and NGOs, as done by Prayas in Arunachal Pradesh for operating Primary/Community Health Centres should be promoted and adopted widely.
- Organizations that are running livelihood, skill development and income generation programs could be allowed to resume their operations so as to assist the returning migrants.
- Information about the CSOs working in various States/UTs could be shared with the local administration at district level so that they could carry out their activities without any hurdles.

The Hon'ble Minister also reassured that he would get in touch with Bihar Government to facilitate participation of CSOs.

