

FICCI WELCOMES ROLL-BACK OF SERVICE TAX LEVY ON HEALTHCARE SERVICES

New Delhi, March 22, 2011: “FICCI welcomes the decision of the Hon’ble Finance Minister to roll back the proposed 5% service tax on Healthcare services provided by hospitals as well as diagnostic centers. This will remove an important deterrent in providing quality healthcare services at affordable cost to the patients”, said **Dr. Narottam Puri, Adviser, FICCI Health Services Committee & Chairman, NABH.**

However, the Government must look at ways to keep healthcare delivery outside the purview of the proposed GST regime. Any new levies imposed as part of the new regime would be detrimental towards the interests of the patients as 80% of the health expenditure is financed out-of-pocket and would have potentially overwhelming healthcare cost increases unbearable for most of the population. This goes against the objective of providing quality, affordable and accessible healthcare services available to all.

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