

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health	
- Mr. Danius Puras (Mr. Anand Grover until 2014)	
<p>Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, Paul Hunt: Addendum, Mission to India A/HRC/14/20/Add.2 (14th HRC session, June 2010)</p>	<p>The report by the former Special Rapporteur, Paul Hunt, from his mission to India (Nov-Dec 2007) was circulated as an addendum to the report of his successor, Anand Grover, and presented to the 14th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2010 (A/HRC/14/20/Add.2). The report notes that disadvantaged groups, including Dalits or so-called ‘Scheduled Castes’, suffer from lack of access to health care, but also commends the Government of India for taking its commitment and obligations to enhance access for all seriously:</p> <p>3. Accessibility Inequitable access: systemic disadvantage</p> <p>36. Access is profoundly inequitable in India’s health system. The Government recognizes this unacceptable state of affairs. For example, after listing some of the chronic conditions afflicting the population, the NRHM emphasizes that the “large disparity across India places the burden of these conditions mostly on the poor, and on women, scheduled castes and tribes especially those who live in the rural areas of the country. The inequity is also reflected in the skewed [distribution] of public resources between the advanced and less developed states”. Of course, this systemic disadvantage is reflected in maternal health indicators, for example, illiterate mothers and women from the lowest wealth quintile have reduced access to basic maternal health care. To their credit, the authorities have developed numerous strategies, policies and plans, and invested considerable resources, to put the situation right. Many of these initiatives, not least the NRHM, are impressive and highly commendable, suggesting that the Government of India takes seriously its commitment and obligation to enhance access for all.</p>