

R.P. Meena

Joint Secretary to the Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
(Department of Health Research)



सत्यमेव जयते

आर. पी. मीना

संयुक्त सचिव, भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
(स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग)

DO NO.V-25011/139/2014-HR

21<sup>st</sup>, April, 2015

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग  
Department of Health Research  
प्राप्ति और प्रेषण अनुभाग  
R. & S. Section

जारी किया 28/4/15  
Issued 28/4/15  
Dear Dr. Shukla,  
Riya Singh

In order to reduce the diagnostic time in various viral diseases e.g. H1N1, influenza, swine flu etc. and to put in place an early warning system for various viral epidemics, the Union Cabinet has approved a Centrally Sponsored Plan scheme on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013 for establishing a network of regional, state and local Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) across the country.

2. The Government of India will set up over 160 viral research and diagnostic laboratories across the country in this Scheme. Under the Scheme 2 VRDLs (one State level and one Medical College level) are to be established in your State. Once these laboratories will be functional, it is expected that any viral epidemic occurring in your State will be diagnosed quickly to improve the public health response to these viral diseases/epidemics.

3. The performance of this scheme with respect of Chhattisgarh was reviewed and it was revealed that only one location so far has been finalised for medical college level laboratory. The preparatory work for the State level location is yet to be initiated by the State Government. Also, various administrative issues were found needing attention pertaining particularly to the procurement of the equipment, renovation/construction of buildings and other miscellaneous preparatory works. I am also attaching a list of such administrative issues pertaining Chhattisgarh needing urgent attention.

4. Although most of the Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratories are being established in the Medical Colleges and the involvement of Medical College administration has been encouraging, however, it is felt that involvement of the State Medical Education Department would help in accelerating the pace of the implementation of this scheme.

5. We are also planning a review of this schemes pertaining to Chhattisgarh in near future and I would request for the time, date and venue of the review meeting shortly. Meanwhile, the issues identified may please be got addressed and a nodal officer from the state government to please be nominated for this scheme, with his full communication details. As such proactive involvement of the Medical Education Department of the State Government is solicited.

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6. For the sake of convenience, the approved guidelines for the further scheme can be accessed at the website of Department of Health Research at [www.dhr.gov.in](http://www.dhr.gov.in). For any clarification, the undersigned or Dr. Nivedita Gupta, Scientist E /Deputy Director, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029 (Mobile No.9313978049/ Office No.26589397) may also be contacted.

*with regards.*

Yours sincerely



(R. P. Meena)

**Dr. Alok Shukla**  
Principal Secretary  
Department of Health and Family Welfare  
Government of Chhattisgarh  
Room No. S2-24,  
Mahanadi Bhawan Mantralaya  
New Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492 002

**ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF  
CHHATTISGARH**

<b>CHHATTISGARH</b>	<b>LOCATIONS ALREADY IDENTIFIED:</b>	<b>ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:</b>
	<p><b>Medical College Level</b></p> <p>Late Shri Baliram Kashyap Memorial Govt. Medical College, Jagdalpur</p>	<p>1. Funds to the tune of Rs. 1,30,00,000/- were released by DHR, in October 2014, for establishment of a Medical College level VRDL at Late Sri Baliram Kashyap Memorial Govt. Medical College, Jagdalpur (Rs. 0.7 cr for equipment; Rs. 0.37 cr for renovation/civil work of the lab and Rs. 0.23 cr as recurring budget for staff and consumables). The medical college should expedite the work.</p> <p>2. Utilisation Certificate in respect of funds already utilised may please be furnished at the earliest.</p>
		<p>3. Action needs to be initiated by the State Government for suggesting the location of remaining 1 VRDL.</p>
		<p>4. Process of Procurement of Equipment and renovation/ construction of premises for laboratories, etc may please be expedited, if necessary administrative approvals/ enhancement of financial powers of HOD/ Director of the medical college may be considered.</p>