



सत्यमेव जयते

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स्व. य. अनुसंधान विभाग
Department of Health Research
प्राप्ति और प्रेषण अनुभाग
R. & I. Section
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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 27th 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 (1 State level and 1 Medical College level) are being 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 ^{Himachal Pradesh} was reviewed and it was revealed that IGMC, Shimla has been identified for establishing the State level laboratory and Dr. Rajendra Prasad College, Tanda has been identified for establishing the college level laboratory. Funds to the tune of Rs.2,47,25000/- and Rs.1,57,00,000/- have already been released to these two colleges respectively for establishing these laboratories. While reviewing the progress of implementation of the scheme, it has been observed that the progress has been extremely slow in both these locations. In respect of IGMC, Shimla, 90% of the funds have remained unutilised. In these circumstances the intervention of State Medical and Health Department would go a long way to speed up the implementation of the Scheme and if need be, the State Medical and Health Department may consider according enhanced administrative/financial powers of the Director/HoD of the Medical Institutes for the purpose of this scheme to enable them to speed up the procurement process for the equipment that are required for the establishment of laboratories.

4. We are also planning a review of this schemes pertaining to Himachal Pradesh 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. 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)

Shri Vineet Chawdhary
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