

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)

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

जारी किया... 22/4/15
Issued... 22/4/15
Dear Smt. Sounik,

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 19VRDLs (two State level and seventeen 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 Maharashtra was reviewed and it was revealed that only two locations for Medical College level so far have been finalised. The preparatory work at the other seventeen VRDLs (two State Level and fifteen medical college level) locations are yet to be finalised. 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 Maharashtra 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 Maharashtra 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)

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