

R.P. Meena

Joint Secretary to Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Department of Health Research
(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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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. At the regional level, NICED, Kolkata has been assigned the important role of keeping surveillance on existing as well as new strains of viruses. Accordingly it is proposed to establish a VRDL equipped with BSL-3 facilities. The other important function assigned to NICED, Kolkata is to act as a mentor and lead the other VRDLs of the region.
3. 100% funding assistance is provided by DHR for the VRDLs which inter alia includes civil works/ furnishing and equipment etc. for microbiological and epidemiological diagnosis for serology, polymerase chain reaction, isolation, tissue culture and sequencing for all viruses, in addition to equipment like DNA sequencer, Micro array, Liquid chromatography mass spectrometer, etc. to carry out basic and applied research at a total estimated cost of Rs.15 crores. As a start-up, funds to the tune of Rs.5.05 crores have already been released to NICED, Kolkata on 16th September, 2014 to take up civil works/renovation and procurement of equipment in a phased manner.
4. A review meeting held on 18th February, 2015 emphasised that the speed of implementation of the scheme, particularly civil works and procurement of equipment may be given a fresh thrust. I hope considerable progress might have been achieved by now and the funds also might have been utilised. During the review meeting various administrative issues were found needing attention. I am attaching a statement of these issues for quick settlement. We are planning a second review of this scheme pertaining to NICED, Kolkata in near future and I would request for the time, date and venue shortly.
5. For the sake of convenience, the approved guidelines for the scheme can also 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.


Yours sincerely,


(R.P. Meena)

Dr. G. Balakrish Nair,
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Copy also to:
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(R.P. Meena)
Joint Secretary.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN RESPECT OF NICED, KOLKATA

	FUNDS RELEASED	ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED
1.	<p>DHR has already released first instalment of Rs. 5,05,00,000/-</p> <p>1. Civil works and furnishing- Rs. 2.69 cr.</p> <p>2. Equipment - Rs. 2.36 crore</p>	<p>1. Financial/ physical progress of implementation of finalized layout plan may please be reviewed and reported to DHR/ ICMR.</p> <p>2. The committee constituted by the institute might have finalized the actual need/ requirement of equipment.it is hoped that further action like floating of tenders/ actual delivery of equipment might have started. This may also please be reported to DHR/ ICMR</p>
		<p>3. Program for procurement of remaining equipment may be drawn.</p> <p>4. Nodal Officer, Dr. Runu Chakravarty may please be advised to take suitable steps for making the laboratory functional at the earliest.</p>
		<p>5. Utilisation Certificate may please be sent at the earliest so that next instalment of funds could be released.</p>