



सत्यमेव जयते

DO NO.V-25011/139/2014-HR  
21<sup>st</sup>, April, 2015

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग  
Department of Health Research  
प्राप्ति और वेपन अनुभाग  
R. & Dean Smt. Mahajan,  
जारी किया 20/4/15  
Issued

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 3 Medical College level VRDLs 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 Punjab was reviewed and it was revealed that two locations have already been finalised for medical college level laboratories. The preparatory work in respect of finalising the location third VRDL is yet to be done. 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 Punjab 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 Punjab 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)

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## ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

PUNJAB	LOCATIONS ALREADY IDENTIFIED:	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:
	<b>Medical College Level</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Funds to the tune of Rs. 1,30,00,000/- were released by DHR, in February 2014, for establishment of a Medical College Level VRDL at Government Medical College, Amritsar (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). As per information furnished by the Medical College, the entire fund remains unutilised. The Medical College is requested to take the following actions immediately:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Expedite the procurement of equipment</li> <li>b. Complete the civil/renovation work</li> <li>c. Furnish the utilisation certification in respect of the funds utilised.</li> <li>d. Make the laboratory functional within 3 months.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
	Government Medical College, Patiala.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. In addition, in October, 2014, the DHR has also released a budget of Rs. 1.30 crore for establishment of a Medical College Level VRDL at Government Medical College, Patiala. The progress of work at this site also is slow and needs to be expedited.</li> </ol>
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. The State also needs to furnish proposal and MoA to DHR for establishment of one more Medical College Level lab.</li> </ol>