

**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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Department of Health Research  
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग

R. & I. Section  
प्रति और प्रेषण अनुभाग  
जारी किया...  
Issued ...  
Dear Mr. Chanda,

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 4 VRDLs (one State Level and three 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 Telangana was reviewed and it was revealed that two locations have already been finalised for medical college level laboratories. The preparatory work at the other 2 VRDLs (one State Level and one 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 Telangana 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 Telangana 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)

**Shri Suresh Chanda**  
Principal Secretary (Health & Family Welfare)  
Department of Health and Family welfare  
Room No. 359, D-Block  
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Telangana.

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

<b>TELANGANA</b>	<b>LOCATIONS ALREADY IDENTIFIED:</b>	<b>ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:</b>
	<p><b>State Level</b></p> <p><b>Medical College Level</b> Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad</p> <p>Kakatiya Medical College, Warangal</p>	<p>1. The locations for the State Level VRDL is yet to be identified in the absence of any suggestions/ proposals from the State Government. State Government is requested to come up with proposal at the earliest, preferably within 3 months so that the funds could be tied up.</p> <p>2. Funds to the tune of Rs. 1,30,48,950/- were released by DHR, in November, 2013, for establishment of a Medical College Level VRDL at Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad (Rs. 0.7 cr for equipment; Rs. 0.37 cr for renovation / civil work and 0.24 cr for staff and consumables). The medical college is requested to take the following actions immediately:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Furnish details of allocated space for the lab.</li> <li>b. Expedite the procurement of equipment</li> <li>c. Complete the civil/renovation work</li> <li>d. Furnish the utilisation certification in respect of the funds utilised.</li> <li>e. Make the laboratory functional within 3 months.</li> </ol> <p>3. Though the location has already been identified and approved by DHR, MoA in this regard duly signed by the State Government is still awaited for want of which release of funds is held up. This may be done at the earliest.</p>
		<p>4. The State also needs to furnish 2 more proposals and MoA to DHR for establishment of one State Level and one Medical College Level to achieve the target.</p> <p>5. 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>