Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY). As per PMSSY guidelines, the State Government was to provide manpower, support staff and meet the recurring expenditure for running this block.

Audit of records (May 2017) of GMC, Amritsar revealed that GoI had the DSB constructed (January 2012-May 2015) at GMC, Amritsar through a contractual agency at a cost of ₹ 24.27 crore. In the meantime, on the proposal[58] (September 2011) of GMC, the Department of Medical Education and Research (DMER), GoP notified (October 2013) some posts of specialists/faculty for recruitment for running the superspeciality services in GMC, Amritsar. However, no suitable candidates could be shortlisted by the Department. The State Government also did not provide funds for running the block. The GMC did not take over the DSB primarily due to non-provision of additional manpower (medical and para-medical) and requisite funds for meeting recurring expenses and for maintenance expenditure (October 2018).

Although it was clear at the time of approval of the project that the State Government would be required to provide staff and funds for running the super-speciality block, the DMER and the State Government has been unable to do so even after three years of construction of the block. As a result, the State could not obtain value for money for ₹ 24.27 crore spent on the construction of the block, thereby not achieving the intended objectives.

The State Government may provide requisite manpower and funds to make the Guru Teg Bahadur Diagnostic and Superspeciality Block functional to deliver envisaged medical facilities to public.

The matter was referred to the Government in May 2018; reply was awaited (August 2019).

3.10 Idle expenditure arising from non-functional machine for treatment of cancer patients

Non-provision of requisite manpower to make the Bhabhatron-II machine functional not only rendered the expenditure of ₹ 1.39 crore idle, but also denied the in-house treatment of advance cases of cancer for more than two years from its procurement.

The Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Medical Education and Research (DMER) requested (December 2014) the Tata Memorial Centre, Department of Atomic Energy (DoAE), Government of India (GoI) for provision of Bhabhatron-II machine[59]- an advanced digital Cobalt therapy machine - with Cobalt source to be installed at Government Medical College (GMC), Patiala for treatment of cancer patients. While making the request, the Secretary, DMER assured DoAE (GoI) that requisite infrastructure was

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[58] Proposal for creation of 1,294 posts (Group 'A' specialist/faculty: 209; Group B:447; Group C: 269; and Group D: 369).

[59] In place of old Theratron 780 machine.

available at GMC, Patiala for operating the machine. Accordingly, DoAE, GoI granted (May 2015) financial assistance of ₹ 2.80 crore for the purpose.

Audit of records (October 2017) of GMC, Patiala revealed that the Department, through Punjab Health Systems Corporation, procured (June 2016) the Bhabhatron-II machine from a firm at a cost of ₹ 2.01 crore, of which ₹ 1.39 crore had been paid as of March 2018. The machine was installed in GMC, Patiala between October 2016 and June 2017. However, the same could not be put to use for want of requisite manpower i.e. Radiation Oncologist and Medical Physicist since June 2016[60] and February 2018[61] respectively. Though the Department had initiated (May 2016) the process for filling up the posts of Radiation Oncologist, the same could not be finalized (May 2018) despite repeated requests of GMC, Patiala till April 2018. Although the Department appointed two Radiation Oncologists in May and August 2018, it could not deploy the Medical Physicist as of December 2018.

The Department stated (December 2018) that the State Government had advertised the posts of Medical Physicist in December 2018. Subsequent reply of the Department was awaited (August 2019).

Thus, non-provision of requisite manpower to make the Bhabhatron-II machine functional not only rendered the expenditure of ₹ 1.39 crore idle, but also denied the in-house treatment of advance cases of cancer for more than two years from its procurement.

The matter was referred to Government in April 2018; reply was awaited (August 2019).

3.11 Idle expenditure arising from non-functional Multidisciplinary Research Units

Laxity on the part of the Department to complete the process of selection of staff for more than four years from receipt of funds from GoI not only resulted in idle expenditure of ₹ 0.76 crore on procurement of equipment but the objectives of the scheme also remained unachieved.

The Government of India (GoI) approved (July 2013) a scheme for "Establishment of Multi-Disciplinary Research Units (MRUs) in Government Medical Colleges/Research Institutions" (Scheme) in the 12th Plan period during 2013-15, which would be continued till 2019-20. The main objective of the scheme was to improve the overall health status of the population by creating evidence-based application of diagnostic procedures/processes/ methods. Under the scheme, one time financial assistance of ₹ 5.25 crore[62]

[60] The Radiation Oncologist i.e. Professor and Head of Radiotherapy Department, available at the time of procurement of the machine was transferred (June 2016) on his request to GMC, Amritsar.

[61] The Medical Physicist (deployed on contract basis) first remained absent from duties from February 2018 and then resigned in July 2018.

[62] ₹ 5.00 crore for purchase of equipment; and ₹ 0.25 crore for minor civil works.