Audit observed that though the Department was aware that a railway line crossed the proposed alignment of the distributary at RD 6713, it did not seek prior approval of the Railways authority as required under afore-mentioned provisions of the Code. While sanctioning the estimate of the work (11 February 2016), it was specifically mentioned that sanction from the Railways Department would be obtained if any objection was raised by the Railways. The EE took up the matter with the Railways only on 3 June 2016 for obtaining No Objection Certificate for laying a pipeline underneath the railway line[54]; but it was yet to be obtained. The matter was still under correspondence (September 2019) with the Railways and the two sections of the Mehangrowal distributary on either side of the railway line had not been linked. As a result, the main distributary could only be made functional upto RD 6713 metres and pipelines laid from RD 6713 metres to RD 8053 metres could not be made functional after a lapse of more than two years from the scheduled date of completion (18 August 2016). The works costing ₹ 1.05 crore[55](out of ₹ 2.90 crore) of the main distributary and ₹ 2.81 crore[56](out of ₹ 3.74 crore) of the distribution system had been completed but remained non-functional at site, thereby resulting in blockade of expenditure.

Thus, due to not obtaining prior clearance from the Railway authorities for laying a pipeline below the railway line, an expenditure of ₹ 3.86 crore incurred on two works remained blocked and failed to achieve the intended objectives.

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

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

3.9 Non-functional Diagnostic and Superspeciality Block

Guru Teg Bahadur Diagnostic and Superspeciality Block constructed at a cost of ₹ 24.27 crore could not be made functional for intended purposes for more than three years since its completion due to non-provision of requisite staff and funds by the Department of Medical Education and Research.

With a view to providing access to specialized tertiary healthcare services to people of Punjab, especially those living in sensitive Indo-Pakistan border areas and to boost medical education facilities, Government of India (GoI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, selected (January 2009) Government Medical College, Amritsar (GMC) for upgradation, on the proposal of the Government of Punjab (GoP). The upgradation *inter alia* included provision of a Diagnostic and Superspeciality Block[57] (DSB) under Pradhan Mantri

[54] At km 60.5 to 60.8 on upstream of Railway bridge No.205 near village Bharatpur Jattan.

[55] ₹ 2.90 x (1,340/3,693) = ₹ 1.05 crore.

[56] 75 *per cent* of ₹ 3.74 crore = ₹ 2.81 crore.

[57] In the name of Guru Teg Bahadur Diagnostic and Superspeciality Block consisting of ground plus five floors.

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

[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.