

CE and if it was more than 10 *per cent*, it should be sanctioned by MD-NRHM within the sanctioned PIP ceiling.

Reply of the department is not tenable as para 6.6.3 of operational guidelines for financial management, NHM stipulates that all procurement of goods/articles should be made as per State Government Procurement Rules. Further, RTPP Rules, 2013, promulgated to ensure and promote transparency in the public procurements, overrides all the existing circulars and provisions related to public procurement. Thus, the approvals accorded by CE over and above his sanctioning powers on the behest of an executive circular issued in 2010, which was itself rendered void *ab initio* as soon as the provisions of RTPP Rules came into force, were unauthorized. Thus, responsibility for the irregular approval of additional works beyond sanctioning powers needs to be fixed. Moreover, the Government should withdraw the said order issued in December 2010 immediately.

The matter was referred (June 2021) to the Government and the Government was reminded in January 2022. Their reply was still awaited (January 2022).

Medical Education Department

7.11 Non obtaining of recognition from Rehabilitation Council of India for Paramedical Courses

The Department initiated paramedical courses without obtaining recognition from Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) which led to discontinuance of courses, adversely impacting the career prospects of enrolled students and resulting in infructuous expenditure of ₹ 1.40 crore incurred on infrastructure and equipment as well as blockage of unutilized funds amounting to ₹ 1.15 crore even after lapse of five years.

To regulate and monitor the training of rehabilitation professionals and personnel and promote research in disability rehabilitation and special education, Government of India (GoI) constituted (September 1992) Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) vide RCI, Act 1992³⁸. As per the mandate of RCI, **no institution could offer any course in Disability Rehabilitation and Special Education without prior approval of the Council**. The Act also prescribes that every professional and personnel is mandatorily required to obtain a Registration Certificate from RCI to work in the field of Disability Rehabilitation and Special Education in India, after attaining the prescribed qualifications from a RCI approved institution.

With a view to increase the **overall availability of paramedical personnel** and to upgrade their skills, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of India (GoI), formulated (September 2010) a

38 The main functions of the said Council are to make recommendations to the Central Government in the matter of recognition of qualifications for rehabilitation stipend, to determine the courses of study and examinations required to obtain such qualifications, to inspect examinations and to conduct the examination of professionals and personnel who have got the steadfastness of rehabilitation stipends Register in the Central Rehabilitation.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, Establishment of the National Institute of Paramedical Sciences (NIPS) and Regional Institute of Paramedical Sciences (RIPS) across the country. Under the Scheme, the State government's medical colleges were to be supported through one time grant to start/increase intake of students in various paramedical streams. Central government and the State Government were to bear the grant in the ratio of 85:15, which was revised to 60:40 from the financial year 2015-16. The grant was to be used for manpower, infrastructure development, building, laboratory, equipment, faculty, library etc.

Scrutiny (November 2020 to April 2021) of records of Principal & Controller (P&C), Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Medical College, Jaipur revealed that a committee constituted by MoH&FW after visiting the SMS hospital Jaipur, recommended (September 2011) setting up six new courses³⁹ (total intake 41) and upgradation of 5 seats each in three existing courses at total cost⁴⁰ of ₹ 12.16 crores, under the scheme. This included a provision of ₹ 1.70 crore for infrastructure (₹ 0.70 crore) and equipment (₹ 1.00 crore) required for the Bachelor of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology (BASLP) and Bachelor of Prosthetic and Orthotic (BPO) courses also.

In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed (May 2012) between MoH&FW, GoI and Government of Rajasthan (GoR) for increasing/starting paramedical seats/courses through one time grant. Accordingly, MoH&FW released (July 2012) an amount of ₹ 5.17 crore to P&C, SMS Medical College, Jaipur as first instalment (50 *per cent* of the central share: ₹ 10.34 crore) with the condition of returning the unutilized funds along with interest, in case of non-creation of stipulated number of paramedical seats. Against second instalment (central share) of ₹ 2.13 crore, an amount of ₹ 1.30 crore was released in January 2017, after adjusting the interest amount of ₹ 0.83 crore earned by the SMS Medical College, Jaipur on first instalment. State government released (December 2014) an amount of ₹ 1.28 crore as first instalment of its share.

Audit observed that from 2013-14, SMS Medical College, Jaipur started two courses (total intake capacity of 15) in the area of “**Disability Rehabilitation and Special Education**” namely Bachelor of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology (BASLP) and Bachelor of Prosthetic and Orthotic (BPO), under the NIPS and RIPS scheme, without prior permission/recognition of the RCI. Administrative approval for opening these courses was obtained only from the Department of Medical Education, GoR.

After completion of one academic year, P&C, SMS Medical College, Jaipur requested (August 2014) RCI for recognition of these courses. RCI inspected (November 2014) the institution and refused (February 2015) the recognition due to lack of classrooms with adequate furniture, experienced faculty and

39 PG (M.Sc.) in Radiotherapy Technology (3 Seats), B.Sc. (Ophthalmic Techniques) (10 Seats), Bachelor of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology (5 Seats), B.Sc. in Medical Lab Technology (10 Seats), Diploma in perfusion Technology (3 Seats) and Bachelor of Prosthetic and Orthotic (10 Seats).

40 ₹ 6.18 crore for infrastructure, ₹ 5.43 crore for equipment and ₹ 0.55 crore for faculty.

supportive staff, space for special laboratory, adequate number of textbooks and journals. Also, community promotional activities and research & development were not found as per the required standards. This led to discontinuation of the BPO course from academic session 2015-16 onwards. Considering the inspection report of RCI, SMS Medical College, Jaipur even did not apply to RCI for recognition of BASLP course and discontinued the course from 2015-16. The deficiencies pointed out by RCI could not be rectified till date by SMS Medical College, Jaipur and both the courses were permanently discontinued.

Thus, sixteen students⁴¹ admitted to BASLP and BPO courses during the academic year 2013-14 and 2014-15 could not complete their courses. The career prospects of these students would also suffer adversely as they wouldn't be able to get registered with RCI and resultantly would not be able to work in field of Disability Rehabilitation and Special Education in India.

Audit observed that construction of the building was completed in September 2019 with the allocated funds of ₹ 6.18 crore and the same was not ready at the time of RCI visit. Since the BPO and BASLP courses could not be recognized, the funds of ₹ 1.40 crore incurred for infrastructure (₹ 0.70 crore) and equipment (₹ 0.70 crore) for these courses rendered unfruitful.

Audit also observed that an amount of ₹ 1.15 crore out of earmarked amount of ₹ 3.26 crore⁴² for equipment (meant for all nine courses), was lying unutilised with the SMS Medical College, Jaipur as of April 2021. The unutilised amount needs to be returned to GoI.

The Nodal Officer, Paramedical Institute, SMS Medical College, Jaipur while accepting the facts stated (March 2021) that the BPO and BASLP courses were not recognised due to non-availability of technical staff. Further, the equipment procured for BASLP course are being utilised by the concerned department of the SMS Medical College. It was also stated that utilisation certificate (UC) had already been sent to GoI and returning of the unutilised funds, was under process.

The Government while accepting the facts stated (October 2021) that SMS Medical College had created facilities as per funds received from GoI under the CSS and was still trying to get these courses recognized from RCI. GoR however, did not provide the status of returning of unspent grant, though called for (November 2021).

The reply is not acceptable as the decision of starting courses without obtaining recognition was against the statutory provisions of the RCI Act.

Further, the subsequent discontinuance of these courses has jeopardized the career prospects of the students enrolled. Further, the courses were started despite non completion of building of Paramedical Institute and installation of equipment as UCs submitted to GoI in May 2015 revealed that construction of

41 4 students were admitted in BPO course and 4 students in BASLP course for the year 2013-14 and 5 students were admitted in BPO course and 3 students in BASLP course for the year 2014-15.

42 Centre's share of equipment = ₹ 3.26 crore (₹ 5.43 crore*60/100).

Paramedical Institute and procurement of the equipment was completed up to 65 per cent and 40 per cent only respectively.

Thus, objective of the scheme to augmenting supply of skilled manpower could not be achieved in the area of disability rehabilitation due to commencement of courses without RCI recognition, rather, employment prospects of students who had enrolled were negatively impacted. This also led to infructuous expenditure of ₹1.40 crore incurred on infrastructure and equipment meant for BPO and BASLP courses and blockage of unutilized funds amounting to ₹ 1.15 crore for more than five years.

Minority Affairs Department and WAQF Board

7.12 Unfruitful expenditure on incomplete girls' hostel

Non-adherence to terms and conditions of sanction and inordinate delay in construction of Girls' Hostel resulted in unfruitful expenditure of ₹ 2.10 crore and deprived of intended facilities to beneficiaries.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MMA), Government of India (GoI) provided additional resources to the States, for creation of socio-economic infrastructure and providing basic amenities to address the development deficit of minority concentration areas, under centrally sponsored scheme Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) during 12th five year plan. The guidelines of MsDP envisages that funds would be released in two instalments of 50 per cent each and the second instalment was to be released after submission of utilization certificate⁴³ (UC) of first instalment along with Quarterly Progress Reports. Department of Minority Affairs (DMA), GoR was responsible to send the QPR to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, GoI along with utilisation certificates and photographs.

Department of Minority Affairs (DMA), Government of Rajasthan (GoR) submitted (March 2015) a proposal under MsDP for construction of 56 bedded Girls' hostel costing⁴⁴ ₹ 4.00 crore at Unani Medical College, Tonk, a college affiliated to Rajasthan Ayurvedic University (RAU). The proposal was based on detailed estimates prepared (March 2015) by Rajasthan State Road Development and Construction Corporation Limited (RSRDCC), the implementing agency. The Empowered Committee of MsDP considered and approved the proposal (August 2015) but reduced the project cost to ₹ 3.38 crore by excluding some components⁴⁵ (₹ 0.62 crore). Accordingly, GoI released (August 2015) first instalment of ₹ 1.69 crore with the instruction to transfer the funds immediately to the implementing agency.

43 UC furnished within a period of one year – 60 per cent UC would be required, UC furnished beyond the period of a year –100 per cent utilization would be required.

44 Civil work : ₹ 2.60 crore, Electrical works : ₹ 32.50 lakh, Sanitary works: ₹ 36.40 lakh, Water harvesting: ₹10 lakh, Expected TP: ₹ 16.94 lakh, Agency charges: ₹ 27.93 lakh, Escalation: ₹ 7.65 lakh and Quality Control and contingency: ₹ 8.90 lakh.

45 water harvesting: ₹10 lakh , escalation: ₹ 7.65 lakh, TP: ₹ 16.94 lakh and agency charges: ₹ 27.93 lakh.