blocked in the bank account for last two years and the intended centre could not be established.

Similarly, Principal GMC, Srinagar submitted (June 2015) a proposal for up-gradation of existing infrastructure at Bone and Joint Hospital, Srinagar at an estimated cost of ₹2.89 crore, against which ₹1.17 crore were released (March 2017) by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GoI. The renovation of spinal injury ward taken up at an estimated cost of ₹13 lakh had been completed. However, the machinery and equipment costing ₹one crore to be procured through JKMSCL had not been procured (January 2019) and an amount of ₹1.04 crore continued to be blocked for around two years.

Thus, departmental failure to take timely action for utilisation of amounts received from the GoI for setting up of the Spinal Injury Centres not only resulted in blocking of ₹3.04 crore, but also deprived the patients of the benefits of the scheme. There is also a risk that due to non-utilisation of these funds, the amount received by the State Government may have to be surrendered to the GoI.

The matter was referred to the Government/ Department in July 2018; despite of reminders issued in December 2018, May 2019 and September 2019, their reply was awaited (September 2019).

## 3.6 Non-establishment of Swine flu testing laboratory

**Injudicious action of Principal, Government Medical College, Jammu to withdraw funds from treasury just to avoid their lapsing at the close of financial year 2014-15 and failure to utilise these funds during last 3 ½ years resulted in parking of ₹3.45 crore in the deposit head, cost escalation and the intended objective of setting up of Swine flu testing laboratory could also not be achieved.**

Rule 2-16 (b) (5) and 2-33 of Jammu and Kashmir Financial Code among other things stipulate that no money should be withdrawn from treasury unless it is required for immediate disbursement or for execution of works, completion of which is likely to take a considerable time. The practice of withdrawing funds with a view to avoiding lapse of budget grant and placing such money in deposits in Public Account or with Bank is forbidden.

After the outbreak of swine flu in Jammu during 2014-15, the Principal, Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu forwarded (February 2015) a detailed proposal for creation of a separate isolation ward and a swine flu H1N1 laboratory for molecular diagnosis of swine flu and other epidemics, at an estimated cost of ₹6.28 crore[61] to the Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education department. The Government approved (March 2015) the proposal and released ₹6.30 crore under State plan with the condition to fulfill all codal formalities required under rules and ensure establishment of the laboratory within the shortest possible time.

[61] Creation of separate isolation ward: ₹2.98 crore; Creation of Swine flu H1N1 laboratory: ₹3.30 crore

Principal GMC, Jammu released (March 2015) an amount of ₹one crore to Executive Engineer (EE), Public Works Department, Roads and Buildings, Tawi Bridge cum Medical College Division, Jammu for construction of isolation ward for utilisation during 2014-15. However, to avoid lapsing of funds at the close of financial year 2014-15, an amount of ₹5.30 crore[62] was also withdrawn (March 2015) from the treasury and parked in civil deposit (Major Head-8443). Out of ₹5.30 crore held in the deposit head, ₹two crore were again advanced (January 2016) to the EE for creation of isolation ward and the balance amount of ₹3.30 crore continued to be held in the deposit head for the last three years. An expenditure of ₹2.85 crore[63] was incurred on creation of isolation ward which was completed in October 2015 and was being used for treatment of suspected/ confirmed H1N1 influenza cases. An unspent balance of ₹0.15 crore was also lying with the EE.

Audit scrutiny revealed that the tenders floated for setting up of laboratory could not be finalised, as only one out of three participating firms qualified in the technical evaluation (July 2015). On the recommendation of the Departmental purchase committee held on 23 September 2015, Principal GMC Jammu entrusted (September 2015) the case for procurement and establishment of laboratory to Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL). However, JKMSCL could not finalise the tenders and execute the project works over a period of more than three years, as a result of which the funds continued (February 2018) to remain parked idly.

On being pointed out in audit, the Principal GMC, Jammu stated (May 2018) that directions had been sought (March 2018) from the Administrative department regarding some technical and administrative issues, which were awaited. It was also stated (August 2018) that additional funds to the tune of ₹1.05 crore had been sought from the Administrative department due to cost escalation. However, the fact remains that injudicious action to withdraw funds from the treasury just to avoid their lapsing at the close of the financial year and the failure to utilise these funds during last 3½ years, resulted in parking of ₹3.45 crore[64] in the deposit head, cost escalation and the intended objective of setting up of Swine flu testing laboratory could also not be achieved. It was also reported that three patients had died of swine flu during 2017-18 in GMC Jammu.

The matter was referred to Government/ Department in July 2018; despite of reminders issued in December 2018, May 2019 and September 2019, their reply was awaited (September 2019).

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62 Machinery and equipment: ₹3.30 crore; Civil works: ₹two crore

63 Isolation ward: ₹2.61 crore; DG Set: ₹0.21 crore and Cabling system: ₹0.03 crore

64 Includes unspent balance of ₹0.15 crore lying with the EE