

machine and it was repaired (28 June 2018) at a cost of ₹ 1.89 crore which included a warranty for a period of one year² only.

By not entering into an AMC and allowing the MRI machine to become non-functional, the Department also incurred an avoidable expenditure of ₹ 1.50 crore (₹ 1.89 crore - ₹ 38.60 lakh) besides depriving the patients the benefit of its services for almost three years (October 2015-June 2018).

On this being pointed out, the Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Meghalaya, stated (November 2018) that AMC could not be entered in to initially, as the Company demanded 100 *per cent* payment in advance which required processing for sanction. The reply is not acceptable, as the Department had two years of warranty period (October 2013 to September 2015) to plan for the AMC and process the case. Further, the Government had sufficient time (four months) before the expiry of warranty period of the MRI machine when AMC was offered.

Thus, the Department's failure to enter into an AMC contract for an expensive item like an MRI machine, which enhances the accuracy of diagnostic services significantly, led to avoidable expenditure of ₹ 1.50 crore, besides denial of required services to the patients for almost three years.

2.3 Failure to operationalise the Blood Storage Units and Blood Component Separation Laboratory

Failure to operationalise the Blood Storage Units and Blood Component Separation Laboratory resulted in non-achievement of the objective of strengthening blood bank services.

Availability of blood storage/transfusion units at referral hospitals is essential for providing emergency obstetric care services. As of April 2011, out of 10 District Hospitals (DH)/ Civil Hospitals (CH) and 29 Community Health Centres (CHCs) in the State, only seven blood storage units (BSUs)³ and one Blood Component Separation Laboratory⁴ (BCSL) were functional in Meghalaya. In order to provide obstetric care closer to the community by strengthening the blood bank services, State Government decided to establish BSUs at 11 health facilities⁵ and BCSL at Tura Civil Hospital under NRHM.

The pre-requisites for making the BSUs functional are as follows:

- A. approval of the licensing authority (Licensing and Controlling Authority, Government of Meghalaya);
- B. construction/provision of a building with a minimum area of 10 sq.mtrs;
- C. posting of technical staff⁶; and

² From 28 June 2018 to 27 June 2019.

³ Pasteur Institute Shillong, Tura Civil Hospital (CH), Jowai CH, Nongpoh CH, Mairang DH, Ampati Community Health Centre (CHC) and Williamnagar CH.

⁴ At Pasteur Institute, Shillong.

⁵ Two District Hospitals and nine CHCs.

⁶ Medical Officer and Technician.

D. procurement of equipment (such as blood bank refrigerator, binocular microscope, table top centrifuge, etc.).

Audit scrutiny revealed that the Meghalaya State Health Society (MSHS) constructed (June 2012-July 2014) additional rooms and procured (November 2016-March 2017) the necessary equipment (detailed at **Appendix-2.3.1**) for establishing BSUs/ BCSL in the selected health facilities (DH/CH and CHCs). The status of these is given below:

Table 2.3.1: Status of proposed BSUs/BCSL

Sl. No.	Name of Health facility	Infrastructure planned and created/ equipment procured for BSU/ BCSL	Expenditure (₹ in lakh)	Status of BSUs/ BCSL as on September 2018
1	Mairang DH	Equipment procured.	10.01	License obtained and made operational.
2	Ampati CHC		10.01	
Total expenditure on functional BSUs			20.02	
1	Baghmara DH	Equipment procured.	10.01	Non-functional, as not applied for license yet.
2	Khliehriat CHC		10.01	
3	Pynursla CHC		10.01	
4	Tura CH (BCSL)		7.07	
5	Dalu CHC	Additional Room constructed and equipment procured.	14.01	Non-functional, as not applied for license yet.
6	Phulbari CHC		14.01	
7	Sohra CHC		14.01	
8	Laskein CHC	Additional room constructed.	5.00	Non-functional for want of specialised manpower, required equipment and license.
9	Riangdo CHC		5.00	
10	Resubelpara CHC		4.00	
Total expenditure on non-functional BSUs/ BCSL			93.13	

It was further observed that the equipment procured for eight DH/ CHCs and one BCSL was commissioned (November 2016 and March 2017) at these health facilities and all the equipment commissioned had a warranty of two years from the date of their commissioning. However, licences to operationalise these has not even been applied for and the warranty period of all these expired (the latest being March 2019) without these being utilised even once.

Thus, additional infrastructure created and equipment procured for nine BSUs in DH/CHCs and one BCSL at Tura at a total cost of ₹ 0.93 crore were lying idle for want of procurement of equipment, posting of specialised manpower and license to run the BSUs/ BCSL. Besides, the objective of providing obstetric care closer to the community by strengthening blood bank services in the State was defeated.

On this being pointed out (November 2018), the Health and Family Welfare Department admitted (March 2019) that licenses were yet to be obtained.