

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE AND MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS

3.3 Unfruitful expenditure arising from non-functional upgraded building of hospital

Due to laxity on the part of the Department and Baba Farid University of Health Sciences in providing requisite grant-in-aid and additional staff, the upgraded building constructed at a cost of ₹ 4.88 crore could not be put to use even after more than four years of its taking over by Senior Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Badal, thereby rendering the expenditure of ₹ 4.88 crore unfruitful.

In order to have a good hospital as per norms⁹ prescribed by Indian Nursing Council (INC) for imparting training to the students of the State Institute of Nursing and Para-Medical Sciences (SINPMS), village Badal, district Sri Muktsar Sahib under the jurisdiction of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS), Faridkot, the Government of Punjab (GoP) accorded (May 2011) approval to the proposal (April 2011) of the Vice Chancellor (VC), BFUHS, Faridkot for upgradation of the Civil Hospital (CH) i.e. Sub Divisional Hospital (SDH), village Badal, district Sri Muktsar Sahib (being situated within 30 kms of SINPMS) under Health and Family Welfare Department from 50 to 100 bedded under a Core Plan for upgradation of civil infrastructure of civil hospitals. Subsequently, GoP transferred (December 2011) the charge of CH, Badal to BFUHS with effect from 1 January 2012. As per terms and conditions of the notification (December 2011), requisite staff could be provided on deputation to CH, Badal and in case of non-availability of required staff on deputation, BFUHS was free to recruit requisite doctors and other staff for CH, Badal. BFUHS was also responsible for providing requisite infrastructure including machinery and equipment to CH, Badal. In order to meet salary of staff and other expenses, GoP was to provide grant-in-aid (GIA) of ₹ 0.50 crore to BFUHS during 2011-12 (January to March 2012) and ₹ 2.20 crore during 2012-13 onwards with increase of 10 *per cent* every subsequent year.

Audit of records (March 2018) of SDH (CH), Badal revealed that the upgradation work¹⁰ (floor area: 35,076 square feet) of the hospital was completed in September 2012 at a cost of ₹ 4.88 crore and the upgraded building was taken over by Senior Medical Officer (SMO), CH, Badal in August 2013. However, the same was not put to use even after more than four years of its taking over by SMO as neither the requisite GIA nor the additional

⁹ Norms include *inter alia* (i) college of nursing should have 100 bedded parent hospital; (ii) bed occupancy of the hospital should be minimum of 75 *per cent*; and (iii) maximum distance between affiliated hospitals and institutions should be 30 kms.

¹⁰ Upgradation work includes provision for 50 beds, extension of OPD block, operation theatre block, x-ray room, ultrasound room, labour room, drug de-addiction block including counselling room and ward, blood bank, four private rooms and many other amenities for staff and patients.

staff (October 2018) was provided by Department of Medical Education and Research (DMER) and BFUHS respectively during January 2012 to May 2018¹¹, in contravention of the provisions *ibid* under the notification (December 2011).

On being enquired (June-November 2018) about the reasons for non-provision of requisite GIA by DMER and additional staff by BFUHS to make the upgraded building functional; no reply was received (November 2018).

Thus, due to laxity on the part of DMER and BFUHS in providing GIA and additional staff, the upgraded building constructed at a cost of ₹ 4.88 crore could not be put to use even after more than four years of its taking over by SMO, CH, Badal. This not only resulted into deprival of improved medical facilities to the masses in and around village Badal, but the objective of having a good hospital for imparting training to the students of SINPMS could also not be achieved, thereby rendering the expenditure of ₹ 4.88 crore as unfruitful.

The State Government may provide requisite funds and manpower to make the upgraded building of the hospital functional to fulfil its objective of having a good hospital for imparting training to the students of SINPMS.

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

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3.4 Suspected misappropriation of Government money

Failure of the Drawing and Disbursing Officers to observe codal provisions and compromise of the internal control mechanism facilitated suspected misappropriation of ₹ 0.83 lakh in Primary Health Centre, Alamwala and Sub-Divisional Hospital, Badal. The amount had been deposited in treasury/with the hospital by the concerned officials after being pointed out by Audit.

Rule 98 (1) of Punjab Treasury Rules provides that before signing the receipt and initialing its counterfoil, the head of an office or the person so authorized shall satisfy himself that the amount has been properly entered in the cash book. Rule 2.2 of the Punjab Financial Rules (PFR) Volume-1 requires that every officer receiving money on behalf of the Government should maintain a cash book and all monetary transactions should be entered in the cash book as soon as they occur and attested by the head of the office in token of check. The cash book should be closed regularly and completely checked. At the end

¹¹ GoP withdrew the charge of CH, Badal from BFUHS on 31 May 2018.