

While accepting the facts, the Government stated (December 2014) that instructions would be issued for executing a fresh agreement as per Uttarakhand Procurement Rules, 2008. It was also assured that a certain percentage of reporting of MRI tests would be conducted at the college itself.

MEDICAL, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

1.9 Idle expenditure

Medical equipment worth ₹ 60.52 lakh were not put to use for the benefit of patients and kept idle for periods ranging from six to eight years.

As provided by Rule 21 of General Financial Rules, 2005, any authorisation of expenditure from public funds is to be guided by the principles of propriety. Authorities empowered to incur expenditure are expected to enforce the same vigilance as a person of ordinary prudence would exercise in respect of his own money.

Scrutiny of records (August 2012) of the Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS), Base Hospital, Almora showed that five medical equipment worth ₹ 46.40 lakh⁴⁷ were received (between April and July 2006) in the hospital from the Director General, MH&FWD, Dehradun which were not put to use at all for the benefit of patients since their installation⁴⁸ and kept idle due to non-availability of technical staff in the hospital. Besides, it was also observed that two other machines worth ₹ 14.12 lakh⁴⁹ installed in the hospital remained non-functional after being used⁵⁰ up to 2008 due to non-availability of technical staff. Thus, idling of equipment for periods ranging from six to eight years indicates that the Department failed to establish required prudence in spending public money at every stage right from planning to utilisation, depriving patients of intended benefits, and calling into question, the planning process in the Department.

On this being pointed out, the CMS accepted (August 2012) the facts and stated (March 2013) that a request was being made with the Directorate, MH&FWD for creation of posts as well as for deployment of staff for operating these equipment. The reply itself indicated that equipment had been provided and installed in the Hospital without ensuring prior sanctioning of posts and deployment of required staff.

The matter was referred to the Government (March 2014); reply was awaited (December 2014).

⁴⁷ Dialysis Machine (₹ 10.85 lakh), RO Water Treatment plant (₹ 5.93 lakh), TUR Set (₹ 13.34 lakh), Bronchoscope (₹ 11.94 lakh) and Pure Tone Audiometer (₹ 4.34 lakh).

⁴⁸ Dialysis Machine (August 2006), RO Water Treatment Plant (February 2008), TUR set (May 2006), Bronchoscope (May 2006), and Pure Tone Audiometer (May 2006).

⁴⁹ TMT Machine (₹ 6.45 lakh)/ Date of Installation: 30.09.1998 and Endoscopy Machine with CCD Camera (₹ 7.67 lakh)/ Date of Installation: 13.08.1999/ 02.11.2000.

⁵⁰ (i) Endoscopy machine and CCD camera (up to April 2008) and (ii) TMT machine (up to August 2005).