

Minutes of the 14th Steering Committee held on 11.10.2012 at 11.30 AM

The 14th meeting of the Steering Committee was held on 11.10.12 at 11.30 AM under the chairmanship of Secretary (Pharma) in the Conference Room Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. The list of participants is at Annexure. Prof. Nagarajan Venkataraman expressed his inability to attend the meeting.

2. As regards minutes of the 13th meeting it was noted that NIPER, Kolkata had intimated that the disparity in fees structure of MS (Pharm), in Pharmacoinformatics vis-à-vis other disciplines was discussed but the same was not recorded in the minutes of the meeting. It was pointed out that since the item was not included in the agenda and also the discussions were inconclusive, the same were not included in the minutes. The minutes of the 13th meeting were confirmed.

3. The action taken notes with respect to minutes of the 13th meeting of the Steering Committee were discussed and following directions were issued by the Chairman Steering Committee

(i) With respect to laying of accounts of NIPERs in Parliament in terms of NIPER Act, 1998, Chairman directed that NIPER, Kolkata and Rae Bareli may submit their statement of audited accounts bilingually urgently so that Department of Pharmaceuticals could take further action to lay them in the Parliament. NIPER, Hyderabad and Guwahati were asked to remind the audit to submit the requisite reports. NIPER, Ahmedabad intimated that the CAG had advised to get the accounts approved by the Steering Committee since the BOG was not in place. NIPER, Ahmedabad was advised to send their accounts to Department of Pharmaceuticals for necessary action. It was pointed out that henceforward accounts should be first considered by the Finance Committee. Thereafter, the matter would be considered by BOG/Steering Committee. Chairman directed that Finance Committee may be set up immediately in each NIPER with the following composition:

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| (i) Project Director, of concerned NIPER | - Chairman |
| (ii) DS/Dir (Finance), Department of Pharmaceuticals | - Member |
| (iii) Registrar, concerned NIPER | - Convener |

(ii) With respect to the issue of MS(Pharm) degree awarded by NIPERs, Chairman stated that he would take up the matter at his level with Ministry of HRD.

(iii) With respect to inclusion of MS(Pharm) in Medical Devices in NIPER Ordinance, Chairman asked Director (Officiating), NIPER, Mohali, to get the same included in the NIPER Ordinance with the approval of APDC. The meeting of the APDC may be convened on priority.

(iv) With respect to revision of MS(Pharm) curriculum, Chairman directed that the meeting of the committee constituted for the purpose may be held after 24.10.12 in view of pooja/exams. Chairman also directed that papers received from industry etc. may be circulated among all NIPERs. The comments/views of OPPI and NIPER, Ahmedabad were circulated among all NIPERs in the meeting itself.

4. **Finalization of agency for construction of campus at NIPER Gandhinagar and Guwahati** – Chairman gave a brief recap of the case. He stated that the CPWD had in response to a solicited offer by this Department, offered to work as PMC consultant without charging any Project Management charges. In order to follow the due procedure of calling open offer from other eligible PSUs, a decision was taken at the 13th meeting of the Steering Committee held on 13/6/2012 to invite applications from the organizations / institutions referred to in GFR 126(2) for construction of NIPER Campus at Gandhinagar & Guwahati. Any organization selected as such would work as Project Management Organization. An EOI was accordingly issued by inserting advertisement in Hindustan, Dainik Jagaran (Hindi) and Statesman and Pioneer (English) dated 10.7.12. In response 4 applications were received, one from a private company, and one from HLL Life Care Ltd. Noida, which was yet to be notified by Ministry of UD in terms of GFR 126(2) (V). As such, only two eligible applicants viz. HSCL and EPIL remained to be considered by the Committee constituted by the Steering Committee. The rates of Project Management Charges were called for from both the companies for a final conclusion. Both the PSUs quoted 6% as PM charges.

The CPWD did not respond to the open offer.

However, the CPWD's O.M. No. DGW/MAN/150 dated 14.12.2007 provides that the contractor's profits and overheads would be 15% (7.5% + 7.5%). The practice followed by HSCL & EPIL was not known to the Deptt. (In terms of CVC guidelines negotiations can be held only in exceptional circumstances. In the instant case, the decision of the competent authority to award work should be with adequate information from both the PSUs.) Therefore,

clarification of the PSU was sought in the context of CPWD OM dated 14.12.2007. Both the PSUs, have agreed to work on a proposal whichever would cost less to the Govt. As such, chairman stated that benchmark for awarding the works would be “the cost to the Government” and that it must match the CPWD offer or be below it.

Based on the offer of the two PSUs mentioned above and further clarification sought during the discussions of the representatives with the Chairman of the Steering Committee, both the PSU’s have informed that they will work out the cost on CPWD schedule of rates and restrict element of contractor’s profit and overhead charge to 7.5% notwithstanding CPWD OM dated 14.12.07, in regard to charging on account of contractor’s profit and overhead charges. In addition, PSUs will charge 6% of the estimated sanctioned cost worked out on the basis of CPWD schedule of rates. (This will include contingency @ 3% on the estimated sanctioned cost as also 3% of the estimated sanctioned cost towards preparation of DPR, architectural design and drawings etc.). This excludes service tax. As such for a work of say Rs. 100/-, CPWD would charge Rs. 115/-. Whereas both the PSUs would charge Rs. 113.50 for the same work. As such, the work may be allotted to HSCL and EPIL, as recommended by the Committee.

5. **Revision of MS (Pharm) curriculum** - Chairman directed that the meeting may be held after 24.9.12 in view of requests of some members that they would be busy in holding exams and pooja holidays. Chairman also directed that papers received from industry etc. may be circulated among all NIPERs. The comments/views of OPPI and NIPER, Ahmedabad were circulated among all NIPERs in the meeting itself.

6. **Disparity in fees structures of MS (Pharm) in Pharmacoinformatics vis-à-vis other courses** – it was decided that the Committee formed under the Chairmanship of Dr R.S. Vundru, Joint Secretary to review MS (Pharm) curriculum would also look into this issue and submit its recommendations to the Steering Committee.

7. **Refund of sports and gym fees to NIPER, Ahmedabad students** – It was decided that the fees should be called sports fees. The charges should be halved with immediate effect in view of the fact that gym facilities were not being provided. Chairman directed that the funds collected for such specific items should invariably be spent on students.

8. **Payment of stipend to NIPER, Ahmedabad students during the period they were on strike** – A decision has already been taken in the 13th Steering Committee meeting with reference to strike by NIPER, Hajipur students that stipend should not be paid to students for the period of absence due to their being on strike. As such the same principle has to be applied to students on strike in NIPER Ahmedabad. However, the stipend already paid may be adjusted over a period of 3-4 months time.
9. **Reporting of strike at NIPER, Ahmedabad** – Chairman directed that every effort should be made to solve genuine problems of students at the earliest. There should be a system of constant interaction between management and students to ensure that things do not reach such unpleasant levels.
10. **Enhancement of contingency for Ph. D students** – In the 7th meeting of the Steering Committee it was decided that the Mentor Institutes would be paid Rs.2.5 lakhs per student for three years for using their Laboratory, consumables etc. NIPER Hyderabad stated that the amount was insufficient. It was therefore decided that contingency charges for Ph. D students may be increased to Rs. 3.00 lakh per student for three years for those NIPERs who have their own labs. The contingency charges for other NIPERs where the labs belong to the Mentor Institutes may remain the same.
11. **Renovation of the IDPL's R&D centre housing NIPER, Hyderabad at an estimated cost of Rs. 3 crores** -- The Steering Committee approved the proposal in-principle but sought details of proposed work. It was emphasised that only minimum investment can be made in IDPL assets.
12. **Special Grant for procurement for research equipments** – NIPER, Hyderabad was informed that funds available under Capital Head (Rs. 3.75 crores) were being released. Further funds would be released subject to availability of fresh funds in RE stage.
13. **Request for sanction of Rs. 12 lakhs for holding all NIPERs sports meet at NIPER, Hyderabad** -- No proposal was received from NIPER, Hyderabad. The proposal as received from NIPER, Hyderabad on 11.10.12 is being processed.
14. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of participants

1. Shri Dilsher Singh Kalha, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals
2. Dr. Raja Sekhar Vundru, Joint Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals
3. Shri S.C. Sharma, Director, NIPER, Department of Pharmaceuticals
4. Shri A. K. Karn, Under Secretary, NIPER, Department of Pharmaceuticals
5. Shri P. K. Singh, Section Officer, Department of Pharmaceuticals
6. Dr. K. K. Bhutani, Officiating Director, NIPER, Mohali
7. Dr. Manish Nivsarkar, Director, PERD Centre, Ahmedabad
8. Dr. Neeta Srivastava, Project Director, NIPER, Ahmedabad
9. Dr. Ahmed Kamal, Project Director, NIPER, Hyderabad
10. Dr. Asish Kumar Banerjee, Project Director, NIPER, Kolkata
11. Dr. J.R. Vedasiromani, Registrar, NIPER, Kolkata
12. Dr. B.K. Bezbaruah, Project Director, NIPER, Guwahati
13. Dr. Syed Tanwir Alam, Asst. coordinator, NIPER, Guwahati
14. Dr. Kislay Sinha, Asst. Professor, NIPER, Hajipur
15. Shri Subrata Sarkar, Registrar, NIPER, Hajipur
16. Dr. P.K. Shukla, Project Director, NIPER Rae Bareli

N.B. -- Prof. Nagarajan Venkataraman, Member, Steering Committee expressed inability to attend the Steering Committee Meeting.