

THIRTEENTH KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
(2011-2014)**

THIRTY SEVENTH REPORT

(Presented on 28th January, 2014)



SECRETARIAT OF THE KERALA LEGISLATURE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
2014

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On

**Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the
Sixty First Report of the Committee on
Public Accounts (2006-2008)**

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INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Public Accounts, having been authorised by the Committee to present this Report, on their behalf, present the Thirty Seventh Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Sixty First Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2006-2008).

The Committee considered and finalised this Report at the meeting held on 21st August, 2013.

Thiruvananthapuram,
28th January, 2014.

DR. T. M. THOMAS ISAAC,
Chairman,
Committee on Public Accounts.

REPORT

This Report deals with the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty First Report of Committee on Public Accounts (2006-2008).

The Sixty First Report of Committee on Public Accounts (2006-2008) was presented to the House on 15th July, 2008. The Report contained 22 recommendations relating to Health and Family Welfare Department. The Report was forwarded to the Government on 24-7-2008 to furnish the SOAT on the recommendations contained in the Report and the final reply was received on 27-12-2011.

The Committee examined the SOAT received from Government at its meeting held on 20-9-2011 and 15-5-2012.

The Committee decided not to pursue further action on the recommendations in the light of the replies furnished by the Government. The recommendation of the Committee and the Statement of Action Taken forwarded by the Government are incorporated in this Report.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 1, Para No. 26)

The Committee found that from 1992 to 1997, Ayurveda (Medical Education) Department had been surrendering money allotted in the budget, without doing anything. This reflects the lack of planning on the part of the department in achieving the desired objectives. When majority of the Government departments are short of enough funds for meeting their necessary requirements, Ayurveda Department had surrendered Plan and Non-plan funds consecutively for 6 years. The Committee strongly criticise the action of the Finance Department in denying sanction for new posts, when they have already provided funds for the same. The Finance Department is not supposed to adjudge on the need of new posts in the Department. Only technically competent persons in that area are expected to comment on the matter. The Committee strongly criticise the redundant action of the Finance Department and direct to keep away from such discrepancies.

360/2014.

Action Taken

14 Department system as per Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) norms has already been constituted in all Government Ayurveda Colleges in the State. New posts among the category of teaching staff have been sanctioned. Now below mentioned teaching posts are left to be created:

Professor, Kriya Sharir, Govt. Ayurveda College, Thrissur.

Professor, Rog Nidhana, Govt. Ayurveda College, Thrissur.

Professor, Kaumarabhrithya, Govt. Ayurveda College, Thrissur.

Professor, Prasuti and Streerog, Govt. Ayurveda College, Kannur.

Professor, Panchakarma Department in Govt. Ayurveda College, Thrissur and Kannur.

Reader (Associate Professor), Agadathantra Vidhi Ayurved, Govt. Ayurveda College, Kannur.

Proposal for the creation of new posts among the teaching categories has already been furnished to Government which is under the consideration of Government. Proposal for the creation of new ministerial posts in Director of Ayurveda Medical Education is also under the active consideration of Government.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 2, Para No. 27)

The Committee is of the opinion that new courses could be started only after obtaining the concurrence of CCIM. Starting new courses without sufficient infrastructural facilities result in non-recognition of the course which can only put the students in peril. The Committee feels that such unnecessary haste should be avoided.

Action Taken

Now new courses in Postgraduate education in Ayurveda are started only after obtaining concurrence of Central Council of Indian Medicine. New Postgraduate degree courses in Ayurveda in 4 specialities has been started in Government Ayurveda College, Thrissur and Vaidyaratnam P. S. Varier Ayurveda College, Kottakkal. All the new courses are started only after getting the concurrence of Central Council of Indian Medicine.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 3, Para No. 28)

The Committee recommends to keep "Panchakarma" as a separate department in Ayurveda Colleges. Panchakarma is one of the important branches of Kerala Ayurvedic System. Since it belongs to Kerala, many of the Ayurvedic doctors from other states are depending on Kerala Ayurvedic Colleges to know and study more about Panchakarma. Hence our Ayurveda Department should give more priority and importance to Panchakarma. The Committee also sees that since other states are unaware of this branch of Ayurveda, our colleges should conduct seminars, and symposiums on this branch and try to obtain Central aid for this emerging branch.

Action Taken

Panchakarma Department has been started in all the Government Ayurveda Colleges in the state Postgraduate degree course in Panchakarma Department specially has also been started in Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur, and Vaidyaratnam P. S. Varier Ayurveda College, Kottakkal with the concurrence of Central Council of Indian Medicine.

Construction of a separate Ayurveda Panchakarma Hospital at Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram at an estimate cost of ₹ 3.99 crore is underway. The Government Ayurveda College, Kannur also desires to build a 100 bedded Panchakarma Hospital above the existing hospital building at an estimated cost of ₹ 2.5 crore loan from NABARD for which proposal has been forwarded to Government for approval. The Panchakarma Department at Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram regularly conducts seminars and discussions for getting awareness of Panchakarma to the public, students and teachers.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 4, Para No. 29)

The Committee would like to be informed of the present status of teacher student ratio for Postgraduate courses. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the state of Swasthavriha Course. Earlier, a Central loan assistance of ₹ 1.13 crore was denied for Ayurveda Department due to conducting Swasthavriha Course without getting recognition. The Committee wants to know whether any steps were taken by the department to get the loan sanctioned when the formalities were satisfied.

Action Taken

The student teacher ratio was prescribed in the Central Council of Indian Medicine Notification published in gazette of India dated 3rd February, 2005. “The teacher student ratio shall be such that the number of Postgraduate teachers to the number of Postgraduate students admitted per year is maintained at 1:2 in case of Professors and Readers and 1:1 for Lectures. Maximum number of students per year per speciality shall not exceed six.

The M.D. (Ayurveda) course in Swasthavritha started in Government Ayurveda College in the academic year 1993-94 with the permission from Government of Kerala and University of Kerala. Central Council of Indian Medicine has approved the course. The Central Government grant of ₹ 1.13 crore could not be used as the amount was not sanctioned at the time. The expense of the course was met from the state fund. Hence the financial assistance from Government of India for the Swasthavritha M.D. (Ayurveda) course was not necessary. Hence not claimed.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 5, Para No. 30)

The Committee is of opinion that the Ayurveda Department ought to have gained recognition of Central Council of Indian Medicine at least for its graduate courses within 10 years of its introduction. During examination the Director deposed that they were able to start two Postgraduate Courses within this short span of 10 years. It is ridiculous to note that when the graduate courses remained unrecognised, the authorities have gone for starting Postgraduate courses. The future of these graduate students will be in dilemma when they apply for PG Courses in some other states. The Committee sees that even though there were strict directions from Central Council of Indian Medicine, not to admit new students without getting recognition, the authorities vehemently violated it and go on admitting new students. The Committee views this as a bad response from the department. The Department should have taken up the matter at Government level and made them aware of the importance of providing infrastructural facilities and thereby gaining CCIM recognition.

Action Taken

The Central Council of Indian Medicine has already recognized the M.S. (Ayurveda) Course conducted by the Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram. In this connection it is reported that now a Postgraduate degree course can not be started with the sanction from the Central Council of Indian Medicine alone. The Central Council of Indian Medicine is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and is advisory in nature. Government of India is the authority which gives the final sanction for the starting of new Postgraduate courses with the recommendation of Central Council of Indian Medicine. So no new courses in Ayurveda can be started without the approval of Government of India. Only an Ayurveda institution which has the recognition of Government of India can start new Postgraduate courses. All the Government Ayurveda Colleges are approved by Government of India. For receiving approval from Government of India, all the Ayurveda colleges should satisfy the minimum standard set by Government of India. All the Government Ayurveda Colleges in the State have either minimum or more standard set by Government of India.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 6, Para No. 31)

The department should take all efforts to start the X-ray unit and pharmacy unit, at Ayurveda College, Kannur since they are essential for studying and knowing more about orthopedics and pharmacology. The Committee desires to be informed of the reason for the delay in constructing the building and to fix responsibility against the person concerned.

Action Taken

With the completion of construction of OP block of the hospital building, X-ray plant will be installed in the hospital at Government Ayurveda College, Kannur. The Chief Engineer PWD buildings, Thiruvananthapuram has been requested for the construction work of X-ray room. At present a teaching pharmacy is working in the Rasasasthra and Bhaishajyakalpam Department. A separate pharmacy building will be constructed after completing the 1st phase of construction work of Ayurveda College complex, which will be completed soon after the completing of compound wall. The construction of hospital building at Government Ayurveda College, Kannur has been executed by the PWD. The delay occurred was in the PWD. However, the construction has been completed and functioning of hospital has been started on 2005 itself.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 7, Para No. 32)

The Committee decide to keep the student bed ratio of 1:5 in Thiruvananthapuram College since it is one of the ancient colleges started in 1889. There is no need to go down from the present standards and the (Central Council of Indian Medicine) CCIM norms of 1:3 is to be strictly adhered to.

Action Taken

The student bed ratio in Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram is now 1:5 and that of other Government Ayurveda Colleges are 1:3.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 8, Para No. 33)

Laboratories are indispensable for healthy functioning of any hospital. In the audit para it was noticed that the Ayurveda Colleges at Thiruvananthapuram, Kannur and Thrissur were running without sufficient laboratory facilities. During the examination, the witness revealed that upgradation works of laboratory equipments are going on. The Committee is satisfied with the reply and likes to know how far the developments are achieved.

Action Taken

The laboratories attached to Hospital in Government Ayurveda College, Thrissur are functioning with all modern and sophisticated equipments and qualified staff. The only shortage being felt in Government Ayurveda College, Thrissur is the shortage of sufficient number of staff proportionate to the increase in the bed strength.

In Government Ayurveda College, Kannur, a well equipped laboratory has already been established with modern equipments kits such as Incubator, Hot Air Oven, Centrifuge, Microscope, Counting Automatic Blood Cell Counter, Glucose Urine Creatine Kits, Reagents etc. Action has been taken to purchase more modern equipments and chemicals and reagents etc., for the clinical laboratory of Hospital and for creation of additional posts for full fledged functioning of the laboratories attached to the college and hospital.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 9, Para No. 34)

The Committee sees that there was shortfall in the medicine production sector of Ayurveda. The Committee strongly recommends to increase production by introducing shift duty system. The Committee also proposed to increase plan funds, especially for the production of medicines. The importance of Ayurveda increase day by day among the people and hence the demand for Ayurvedic Medicines also increases in the years to come. Hence the Committee is of the view that Ayurvedic Medicines needed for the State should be produced in the State itself. The department can think of project for restructuring Pharmacy Unit attached to Ayurvedic College, Thrippunithura and start production of medicines there. Since Ayurveda is indigenous the Ayurvedic drugs especially those from Kerala have more rating in the International Market. The State can therefore think of exporting Ayurvedic Medicines, if produced on a larger scale.

Action Taken

Sufficient Budget allocation under Non-plan is now available for the production of almost all medicines both for I.P. wing and O.P. wing. Insufficiency of required number of staff proportionate to the increase in the production of medicines is badly affecting production process. So also in order to comply with the recommendation of the Committee to introduce shift duty sufficient number of additional staff is required.

The production of medicine in Government Ayurveda College Pharmacy, Thiruvananthapuram is now in full swing. For the last two years the pharmacy at Thiruvananthapuram has produced medicines worth ₹ 28 lakh and ₹ 40 lakh respectively. However the present infrastructure facilities available in the pharmacy is not sufficient for the production of medicine for export.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 10, Para No. 35)

The Committee recommends that an Ayurvedic Drug Institute be established. The Committee thinks it fit to start such an institution outside the purview of Ayurveda College or Indian System of Medicines. The Ayurveda Department should chalk out a properly laid down Project Report for the research facilities. The Committee also recommends to start, publication of a Research Journal of Ayurveda which contains Ayurveda Research Findings up to date. The practice of publishing Research Findings in Souvenir of Kerala University is to be stopped.

A journal of international standard under the banner of Ayurvedic Colleges is to be started very soon. The “Thaliyolas” obtained from the Kerala’s early ‘vaidyan’ families along with treatments, specific to certain diseases is to be collected, and kept as precious one. The Research Institute can think of digitalizing these valuable data and keep them for future use.

Action Taken

Previously the quality control of Ayurveda Drugs was also been under the Drugs Controller (Allopathy). There was also a post of Deputy Drugs Controller (Ayurveda) for this purpose. Now the Drugs Control Department is bifurcated and the quality control of Ayurveda Drugs are now controlled by a separate AYUSH Drugs Controller. There is a Drug Testing Lab functioning at Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram. Steps has already been taken to integrate the Drug Testing Lab of Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram and AYUSH Drugs Control Department to start a Drugs Institute in Kerala.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 11, Para No. 36)

It is high time that the Drug Research Institute started a patent cell in the State. The Research wing of Ayurveda should prepare a data of medicinal plants, both extinct and existing, used and unused one. The Committee strongly recommends to prepare a project which reveals clearly the research methodology adopted, continuation of research, inter disciplinary and inter institutional linkage.

Action Taken

Government have constituted a Patent Cell on 7-7-2003 with the Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department as Chairman and Director of Ayurveda Medical Education as Convener, in the context of reports on patent claims for Ayurvedic concept by foreign countries. Accordingly the documentation unit of Patent Cell started in Directorate of Ayurveda Medical Education to locate the specific areas in Ayurveda and related matters peculiar to Kerala on Ayurvedic concepts.

The Digitalization of Traditional Medicinal Knowledge in Malayalam language is being undertaken by the Patent Cell. Following the state-wide survey, nearly 2000 literature in the forms of ancient books and manuscripts were identified. The experts from Ayurveda, Manuscriptology and Information Technology are working for the elephantine task of digitalization. Approximately

9000 leaves and 227 bundles of manuscripts were deciphered from crude Malayalam language. 2217 pages from 9 books and 39334 palm leaves and 227 bundles of manuscripts were scanned and saved in the digital media. Nearly 6264 articles (Medical formulations) from manuscripts and books were prepared in the defensive database as per the International Patent Application format recognized by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). A Book titled “Keraleeya Ayurveda Samajam Hospital & Nursing Home, Shornur Oushadha Vijnanam Vol-I” compiled from 4 bundles of Manuscript has been released.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 12, Para No. 37)

The Drug Standardisation Unit was introduced by Government with the objective of evolving methods/techniques to fix pharmacological standards for Ayurvedic medicines—but it has not achieved its purpose even after 32 years. The Expert Committee constituted by Government to guide the activities of the unit had not met since November 1986. No periodicity has also been fixed for the meeting of the Committee. This shows the lackadaisical attitude of the Expert Committee towards this unit. The Committee feels it wise to fix a term of one year for convening the meetings of the Expert Committee.

Action Taken

By utilizing the Central Assistance (AYUSH) of ₹ 75 lakh, the infrastructure facilities of the Drug Standardisation Unit has strengthened. Out of the ₹ 75 lakh, ₹ 20 lakh has been spent for the construction of a building in Government Ayurveda College campus. Since 2004, the Drug Standardization Unit is functioning in this new building. Drug Standardization Unit has purchased two sophisticated analytical instruments viz., High Performance Thin Layer Chromatography (HPTLC), Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) by spending ₹ 55 lakh through Central Assistance. As to the induction of these instruments, the Drug Standardisation Research Work of this unit has been ameliorated to a great extent. However, it has to be strengthened further, both in terms of infrastructure and man power (Scientific as well as technical).

The Drug Standardisation Unit has been fixed Pharmacopeial standards for fifty nine (59) single drugs and five (5) compound formulations. The formulations include Gulguluthikthakam gritham, Ashtachoornam, Vaiswanarachoornam, Avipathy Choornam and Shaddarana Choornam.

The Drug Standardisation Unit is now carrying out the standardisation work on Dasamoola, which consists of ten single drugs. Dasamoola is one of the major ingredients of a number of compound formulations described in Ayurvedic Classics.

The Drug Standardisation Unit is periodically conducting national seminars/symposia on Drug Standardisation in Ayurveda. Scientists of this unit have been associated with the various training programmes conducted by the Departments of the Ayurveda Colleges, in the official capacity as Resource persons.

Now the Drug Standardisation Unit has initiated interaction with the leading drug manufacturing units like Oushadhi, Kottakkal Arya Vaidyasala etc., to the quality control issued in the Ayurveda drug industry.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 13, Para No. 38)

The objective of the unit was to conduct pharmacognostic studies of medicinal plants and publish a series of books on pharmacognosy of Ayurveda drugs. While nine volumes of Pharmacognosy of Ayurvedic drugs were published prior to the transferring of unit to Ayurvedic College only two volumes were published by the Unit between 1966 and 1986. The Committee desires to know the reason for such meagre, number of publications and the reason for the delay in publishing the rest of the volumes. The Committee recommends to join in hands with Sanskrit University in this connection.

Action Taken

After 1986 no publications were brought up by the Pharmacognosy Unit. The Publication of the book “Pharmacognosy of Ayurveda Drugs—Kerala” still going on uninterruptedly and Pharmacognosy Unit has published the following books after 1986.

1. Pharmacognosy of Ayurveda Drugs—Kerala Vol. 11—1996.
2. Pharmacognosy of Ayurveda Drugs—Kerala Vol. 12—1998.
3. Pharmacognosy of Ayurveda Drugs—Kerala Vol. 13—July 1998.

The work on the 14th volume on Pharmacognosy of Ayurveda Drugs—Kerala is going on. In addition to the above classical publication Pharmacognosy Unit has published the following books as per suggestions of the Expert Committee:

1. Oushadha Sasyangal (Malayalam)—1998
2. Sadharana Rogangalum Nivarana Margangalum—1998
3. Proceedings of National workshop on Traditional medicine and patent regime—1999
4. Proceedings of 2nd National Seminar on Medicinal Plants—2000
5. Hand Book of Medicinal Plants—2002
6. Proceedings of 3rd National Seminar on Medicinal Plants—2002
7. Proceedings of 4th National Seminar on Medicinal Plants—2005
8. Proceedings of 4th National Seminar on Medicinal Plants—2006
9. Proceedings of 4th National Seminar on Medicinal Plants—2007
10. Proceedings of 2nd National Seminar on Medicinal Plants—2008
11. Pradhama Susrushayum Laghu Chikitsakalum (Mal.)—2008.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 14, Para No. 39)

The main objective of Publication Division on Ayurveda was to publish rare manuscripts and “Grandhas” on Ayurveds. It is seen that no books other than text books were published by this section. It is the duty of publication division to publish easily digestible Ayurvedic books to common man and thereby popularising Ayurveda among the whole population. The importance of Ayurveda is increasing day by day and hence Ayurvedic department has a moral obligation to make people more aware of this branch of treatment. The reason for the delay in publishing the manuscripts should be submitted to the Committee. The Committee suggests that Department seriously make an assessment of the work of the Publication Division in Ayurveda Colleges.

Action Taken

A Committee has been constituted to assess the work of Publication Division. In this connection it is reported that out of six manuscript received only three manuscripts were found suitable for editing and publishing. Hence the remaining manuscripts are not published. At the same time there was scarcity of syllabus-wise text books for the study of Ayurveda Students, the Publication Division had to take keen interest in publishing Text books for the students and Ayurveda Practitioners. It was also found that the same would be useful for the public. It may also be noted that in 1974 only 5 Postgraduate Degree Courses were conducted in Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram where the Publication Division is functioning. Later Postgraduate Degree Courses in 7 more specialties were started, which has resulted increase in the workload among the teaching staff of Government Ayurveda Colleges. Hence the staff of the Publication Division were deployed to various departments of the Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 15, Para No. 40)

The Committee desires to be informed of the revised rate of bus charges being levied from the students in order to run the bus on a no profit, no loss basis. The Committee also desired to know, whether any new bus was bought for the purpose.

Action Taken

On the basis of the meeting of Van Committee of Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram held on 11-1-2007, it was decided to revise the existing Van Rule VIII (3) as follows:

“For Special trips, the minimum charge shall be ₹ 1,250 for the first 25 Kms. and ₹ 13 per Km. will be levied for remaining further Kms. Charges shall be levied for return and onward journey. ₹ 60 (₹ 35 for the Driver and ₹ 25 for the Conductor) shall be levied on the Party. The amount will be remitted in advance and will be finalized soon after the journey is performed.

Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram has introduced a new College Bus with effect from 2/2008 and the old bus was auctioned (publically) on 10-1-2008. Since revision of Van Rules is not finalized, Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram is using the bus only for the students taking from College Hostel, Poojappura to Government Ayurveda College. The bus is not used for any other purposes.

In Government Ayurveda College, Thrippunithura no new college bus has been procured. The rate of bus charges being levied on the students of this college is quite sufficient to run the bus on no profit no loss basis.

Recommendation

(Sl. No.16, Para No. 41)

The criteria for fixing the staff pattern in hospital is the bed strength of the hospital. The bed strength of hospitals has not been increased in recent times. Therefore the Committee feels that the department should deploy excess staff to the rural areas where hospitals run short of sufficient staff.

Action Taken

In the State in several Ayurveda Hospitals including 100 bed hospitals sufficient number of posts have not been created as per staff pattern. In the circumstances sufficient number of posts are not available for the deployment.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 17, Para No. 42)

The Committee observes that the main supplier of medicines to the department is Oushadhi, which is supplying medicines without any delay and hence there was no necessity to place indents for huge stock of medicines very early. The quality of medicines should be ensured before they are supplied to patients and in no case substandard medicines should be distributed to them.

Action Taken

Ayurvedic medicines are made available from Oushadhi to 747 Dispensaries and 117 hospitals coming under ISM in three turns every financial year. No complaint has been received regarding medicines supplied by Oushadhi so far.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 18, Para No. 43)

The Committee would like to know about the present status of power laundry installed in Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram and to know the details of installation of 300 KVA transformer. The reason for the delay in the installation of transformer even after depositing ₹ 4.65 lakh in 1989 should be submitted to the Committee. The Committee directs that the hospital authorities should fix a period of replacement of linen.

Action Taken

The Transformer with required capacity has already been installed by the concerned authority and presently the functioning of the power laundry is in full swing. Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram has now taken a decision to replace all linen materials once in every two years or as and when it seems to be unusable whichever is earlier. The Power Laundry Machine in Government Ayurveda College Hospital at Thiruvananthapuram was installed on 29-3-2005.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 19, Para No. 44)

For the construction of a 350 bedded hospital for Ayurveda College, Thrippunithura 9.06 acres of land was acquired in June 1989 at a cost of ₹ 46 lakh. The plan and sketch design were approved by the Principal in May 1991 and the Chief Architect finalized the design and detailed drawing in December 1994. But the work was not started even in 1997. The reason for the delay in starting the construction work is not submitted by the department. The Committee would like to know, if any action had been taken against the officer who failed in doing the work at the proper time. Also the Committee would like to be informed of the reason for the delay in starting the work at the proper time.

Action Taken

Construction of Hospital Building in Government Ayurveda College, Thrippunithura has been completed on 2005. Now the hospital is working in that building.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 20, Para No. 45)

Even though no special museum was there for Rasasasthra and Bhaishajyakalpana in Pharmacology Department of Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram, a museum keeper was posted there paying salary to him without getting any services for the department. The officer responsible for such unnecessary posting should be asked to submit the reason for that. The Department system was fully implemented only in 1998 and posting of Artist-cum-Museum Keeper made in 1991 was a real waste of money.

Action Taken

There were 3 sanctioned posts in the cadre of Artists/Museum Keeper. Their services have fully been utilized by the Pharmacology Department in preparing charts, designs and models which are very essential for the students of UG and Postgraduate course. Now one post of Artist/Museum Keeper is redeployed to Government Ayurveda Hospital, Kannur.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 21, Para No. 47)

In the audit para 3.5 it was pointed out that four Government Homoeo Hospitals viz., Kayamkulam, Kottanad, Kalanad, North Parur established between April 1980 and January 1992 failed to admit in-patients for periods varying from 1½ to 8 years for want of sufficient infrastructural facilities. At the same time staff required for running the in-patient wing were retained there, without redeploying them elsewhere, thus causing a loss up to ₹ 7.80 lakh to Government. The Committee is of the opinion that, even though it was mentioned in the Government order that it was the duty of the Local Self Government Authorities to provide infrastructural facilities, the Homoeopathy Department have a moral obligation to find a suitable place, at least a rented building for the functioning of the hospitals. Hence they should have taken up the matter with the higher authorities.

Action Taken

IP Unit of Kayamkulam Government Homoeo Hospital is now functioning at a new building constructed by Kayamkulam Municipality. Construction of inpatient block is vested with Local Self Government Authorities and delay in construction is beyond the control of this Department.

Only the outpatient wings are operating in Government Homeo Hospital, Kottanad. Excess staff in Government Homoeo Hospital, Kottanad pointed out by the audit has been redeployed as recommended by the Committee.

Construction of inpatient block at Government Homoeo Hospital, Kalanad has been completed and is functioning.

Government Homoeo Hospital, North Paravur is functioning in newly constructed concrete building.

Recommendation

(Sl. No. 22, Para No. 48)

Regarding posting of excess staff in Homoeo Department, the reply given by the Department is not acceptable to the Committee. The Government cannot feed any excess staff without getting any service from them. The Committee feels that the Department authorities had shown unnecessary haste in getting new posts sanctioned. If they had shown the same care and attention in the matter of finding a suitable place, in consultation with Local Self Government Department authorities for running the hospital, this contingent situation would not have arisen. The Committee would like to know the present position of these hospitals whether they are functioning well in the same locality or transferred to some nearby Panchayats and, if not functioning. Whether the excess staff in these hospitals were deployed.

Action Taken

Inpatient wings are functioning in all the Government Homoeo Hospitals as specified in para 47 of Public Accounts Committee, 61st Report except Government Homoeo Hospital, Kottanad. Hence, no employees have been redeployed from Government Homoeo Hospital, Kayamkulam, Kalanad and North Paravur.

All excess staff in the Government Homoeo Hospital, Kottanad have been redeployed.

Thiruvananthapuram,
28th January, 2014.

DR. T. M. THOMAS ISAAC,
Chairman,
Committee on Public Accounts.