Infrastructure Development for Health Research

**Objectives:**

The objectives of the present scheme are to:

- bridge the gap in the infrastructure which is inhibiting health research in the Medical Colleges by assisting them to establish multidisciplinary research laboratory and animal house facility with a view to improving the health research and health services.

- create infrastructure for transfer of technology to the end users which would ensure an interface between the new technologies developers (Researchers in the Medical Institutions; State or Centre), health systems operators (Centre or state health services) and the beneficiaries (community Rural, Urban slums)

- ensure the geographical spread of health research infrastructure by selecting judiciously the institutions to be supported under the scheme.

- this scheme, with the components detailed below, is essential since there are no other schemes at present, which address these issues either in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare or in other Ministries.

**Components:**

1. Establishment of Modern Biological Lab/ Multidisciplinary research units in Government Medical Colleges and institutions

2. Establishing Animal House facilities in Govt. Medical Colleges

3. Developing of Model Rural Health Research Units (MRHRU) in states

**Setting up of modern biological labs/ multi-disciplinary research units in State Govt. medical colleges** - At present there are about 300 medical colleges in the country of which 143 are in Govt. sector. In order to revitalize medical colleges as centres for bio medical research, it is proposed to provide financial assistance upto Rs. 5 crores to each medical college for setting up appropriate infrastructure for medical research, depending on the infrastructure gap/ requirement of the institution This will include funds for civil works, equipments and furniture considering the availability of existing infrastructure in each of the Medical College, the requirements in terms of equipments, civil work for medical colleges etc. will vary. During the project period of 3 years, it is proposed to take up 100 State Government Medical Colleges. The project will be extended thereafter to cover the remaining government medical colleges and others.

Apart from this, the non-recurring grant will also be extended for a period of 5 years for engaging trained technical man power on contractual basis, for training, consumables and contingency expenditure.
Departments of Health Research will establish the Model Rural Health Research Units at least one per state. In bigger states, there will be more than one such unit. They will function under the Department of Health Research and would continue to develop specific models for transferring the technology, as the development of technology in the health system is a continuous process and there is a need to review and modify the models depending on the new available technology. They will also generate state/area/disease specific data, which would be a great input for improving the general health system. It was proposed to establish 50 such units during project period.

Achievements:

1. The scheme has been approved in principle by the planning commission and expenditure finance concurrence (EFC) has been prepared. The EFC document was revised/improved thrice in the light of comments received from the Ministry, the last revision done in January 2012.

2. As per comments of Integrated Finance Division (IFD) of ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, the EFC for the period of one year was prepared and has been submitted to IFD for their approval.

3. In the meantime, the preparatory budget for the infrastructure scheme is being sought from the IFD so that the startup activities for establishing MRUs at the State Medical Colleges and MRHRUs at state level can be undertaken.

4. 60 medical colleges from 20 different states have sent their applications for establishing multi-disciplinary research unit (MRU). 31 medical colleges have been selected to be taken up into the first phase. These medical colleges were also contacted for sending their faculty applications to apply to the fellowship scheme of Human Resource Development under DHR so that faculty become active and develop projects.

5. The DHR has received willingness and proposals from 5 states namely Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra to establish MRHRU in their states. State Governments have sent the names of the nominees responsible for coordinating with the department for establishing the units. A workshop has been proposed to initiate the proposals through MRHRU of these states.