SEVENTH QUARTERLY REPORT OF MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR GAS RELIEF HOSPITALS

The Monitoring Committee visited Master Lal Singh Hospital on 08/12/2015. The report of the visit is as per ANN. A. During the visit it was noted that the Hospital has facility for treatment of Children, Anti Natal Care (ANC), ECG facility and Ultra-Sonography. It is noticed that, not only Ultra-Sonography Unit of the Hospital was fully functional with large no. of Ultra-Sonography procedure being undertaken therein. It was reported that patients advised Ultra-Sonography test from Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, Kamla Nehru Hospital, Khan Shakir Ali Khan Hospital are also being referred to Master Lal Singh Hospital, as Ultra-Sonography machines in the said Hospitals (Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, Kamla Nehru Hospital, Khan Shakir Ali Khan Hospital) are non-functional. It was directed that information be sought from the said Hospitals as to since when the Machines are out of order and also as to what action has been taken by the said hospitals for the repair/replacement of the said equipments/machines.

It was noticed that though there is heavy attendance in the OPD and about 600-700 patients visit OPD every day, but the bed occupancy in wards was found to be very low and capacity of almost all the wards including female wards was underutilized. In normal course the bed occupancy in wards should be quite heavy as the hospital is located in a
crowded locality, with large number of gas victim residents. Therefore, the Administration of the Hospital should look into this aspect and should endeavour to make appropriate and adequate arrangements for treatment, so that the ward capacity is utilized to the optimum.

Monitoring Committee held meetings on 26/09/2015, 30/09/2015 & 30/12/2015. The Minutes of the Meetings are as per ANN.1, ANN.2 & ANN.3. The Monitoring Committee considered the report received from CMHO containing information regarding OPD patients, investigations, positions etc. Complaints by the patients were also taken up and action taken thereon has been detailed in the Minutes of the Meetings. Some complaints and action thereon are as stated below:

In the Meeting dated 26/09/2015 a complaint about incapacity of Ophtalmologist, Dr. Madan Kumar Kalyani posted at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital was considered. The complaint was regarding incapacity to conduct eye surgery by Dr. Kalyani, due to tremors in his hand. The matter was referred to Director, Kamla Nehru Hospital (KNH). In response thereof, the Director, KNH informed that a committee has been constituted to enquire into the complaints of tremors in the hands of Dr. Kalyani and opinion of the District Medical Board has been sought. In the meanwhile Dr. Kalyani has been directed not to undertake eye surgery.
In the meeting dated 30/09/2015 case of Gas Victim Patient Mr. Hemant Sharma was considered. Mr. Hemant Sharma suffered from Renal Failure and had sought release of funds for treatment. However, before the funds could be released he expired. In the above context, in the meeting dated 30/09/2015 Shri Abhishek Singh, Director Gas Relief & Rehabilitation informed that in the case of treatment of cancer patients, policy of State Government is clear and under the said policy he has the authority to sanction funds for treatment. In such cases, funds are released without delay. However, there is no such policy for treatment relating to other serious ailments relating to kidney, heart, liver etc.

The Monitoring Committee on consideration of the matter is of the view that the Govt. in the Department of Gas Relief & Rehabilitation should frame policy for prompt release of funds for serious ailments such as Kidney, Liver, Heart, etc. as is the policy to be applied in the case of Gas Victim Cancer Patients.

The Director, Gas Relief & Rehabilitation vide his letter dated 07/12/2015 stated that a committee has been constituted by him to formulate treatment policy about serious ailments such as relating to kidney, liver, heart etc. The matter would require a follow up after some time.

In the meeting dated 30/09/2015, the matter of making available specific medicines as prescribed by
Super-specialist in serious ailments of Gas Victims Patients was taken up for consideration. The matter of Mr. Pawan Devgan who had undergone Kidney Transplant in Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi was considered. He was prescribed certain medicines by treating Doctor Ashwani Gupta, with the specific instruction that no substitute medicine should be given to the patient. However, BMHRC offered him generic medicine, in place of medicine, as prescribed by the treating Doctor of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi.

In the above context, the Monitoring Committee was of the opinion, that in view of specific instruction of the treating Doctor that no substitute medicines should be taken by the patient, medicines as prescribed to Mr. Pawan Devgan be provided to him. It was further observed that for future action in similar matters, Department of Gas Relief & Rehabilitation should get the matter examined by a panel of experts and policy be framed in that regard.

Some other complaints were also received from patients complaining that they are not being provided proper treatment or funds are not being released or medicines are not being provided which are as per ANN.4. Action has been taken thereon by the Monitoring Committee.

It is noticed that BMHRC which is a premier medical institution of this area, catering to the medical requirements of not only gas victims patients but also to public at large,
has suffered set back, mainly due to paucity of Super Specialists and Senior faculty. In the above context, it may be noticed that the Monitoring Committee had quite some time back, particularly by Minutes of Meeting dated 28/08/2015, **ANN.5** pointed out that service conditions of the Medical & Administrative Staff of BMHRC deserve to be reconsidered and Rules framed, in order to attract and retain competent faculty especially the Super-specialists. However, it appears that the rules laying down the terms and conditions of the BMHRC have yet not been framed and in fact as per the Newspaper report **ANN.6**, Doctors serving in the BMHRC have been forced to take agitational approach regarding the matter.

Needless to say that Premier Institution like BMHRC must be well administered and properly staffed, so as to give real relief by way of proper treatment to the Gas Victim Patients, as well as others.

The Chairman of the Monitoring Committee attended the 13th Meeting of the Advisory Committee on 18/11/2015 as a special invitee. In that meeting the question of testing of medicines/drugs being dispensed to the Gas Victim Patients was considered. It was informed by Dr. Sanjay Saxena, Secretary & Convener of the Advisory Committee that the drugs are supplied to the Hospitals run by the Gas Rahat Department through M.P. State Drug Procurement Corporation, through open tendering. Dr. Sanjay Saxena also
informed that during the period under report, 151 samples of drug from the hospitals of Gas Relief Department were sent to NABL accredited laboratories, and all were found of standard quality. Director Dr. Manoj Pandey of BMHRC informed that drugs are being procured through open tender process. He also informed that at BMHRC drugs are received with NABL certification.

In the Advisory Committee Meeting dated 18/11/2015, the matter of networking of Gas Rahat Hospitals and BMHRC as well as issuance of health booklets to the Gas Victims was also considered. The Chairperson decided to constitute a Committee to go into the technicalities and modalities to resolve the issue of linking of data bases of Gas Relief Department Hospitals and BMHRC for mutual accessibility. Regarding the matter of issuance of booklets, the Chair person of the Advisory Committee directed that health booklets be issued to each of the Gas Victim Patients.

It may be mentioned that the matter of computerisation and net linking of data as well as issuance of smart cards and health booklets has been considered time and again in the past by the Monitoring Committee also. Hopefully, earlier recommendations of the Monitoring Committee as well as those of the Meeting of Advisory Committee dated 18/11/2015, would be complied with, in letter and in spirit.
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The Chairman along with other members also visited Khan Shakir Ali Khan Hospital on 08/12/2015 especially its Operation Theatre (O.T.). It was informed that the O.T. is fully functional. There was a minor O.T. also in the Hospital which, it was informed is only used for minor procedures, such as bandaging etc. besides for some minor surgical problems.

On 17/11/2015, the Chairman along with the Director Gas Relief & Rehabilitation visited Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital. It was informed that the upper floor which was lying vacant, has been renovated and necessary amenities provided therein and the same is being used for admitting indoor patients. Enhancement of indoor capacity in the hospital is greatly beneficial to large no. of Gas Victim Patients which would now be admitted as Indoor Patients.

In the meeting held on 30/12/2015, (Minutes of Meeting as per ANN.3), the Monitoring Committee considered the matter of non-receipt of previous records from DME who has been the Ex-Secretary & Convener of the Monitoring Committee. However, despite lengthy correspondence and also D.O. Letter to Principal Secretary, Medical Education, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, the previous records of Monitoring Committee has not been sent by the Office of DME, to the Office of Monitoring Committee.
It is suggested and recommended that:

1. All the Gas Rahat Hospitals should endeavour to keep the equipments, gadgets in working condition and defects, if any, observed therein should be get rectified immediately.

2. State Government/Directorate; Gas Relief & Rehabilitation should take policy decision and lay down line of action for immediate relief including release of funds to Gas Victim Patients suffering from serious diseases such as Kidney, Liver, Heart, etc.

3. BMHRC should endeavour to immediately frame service rules governing service conditions of Doctors/Staffs as was observed as far as back in the Monitoring Committee Meeting dated 28/08/2015.

4. Similarly, the status of non-availability of Specialists/Senior Doctors in BMHRC has not improved despite long lapse of time. The matter requires urgent attention so that patients receive specialised treatment in the said Institution.

(Justice V.K. Agarwal)
Chairman

(Dr. Nirmoh Shrivastava)
Member

(Dr. B.P. Dubey)
Member

(Purnendu Shukla)
Member

(Dr. K.K. Thassu)
Member Secretary & Convener