

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE**

**Subject- Issues pending with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi**

1. **Approval by Indian Nursing Council for Nursing School Jalandhar** - The request of the State Government for approval by Indian Nursing Council is pending since 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

- The School of Nursing, Shaheed Babu Labh Singh, Civil Hospital Jalandhar was started in 1952 for imparting GNM training to fresh candidates. In 1981, it was converted to promotional training school from ANM to GNM.
- This institution is lying closed since March, 2006 when the last batch of GNM passed out. Needless to mention that this institute had Indian Nursing Council (INC) affiliation till 2006.
- The State Government with a view to utilize this excellent infrastructure decided to revive this institute w.e.f. academic year 2010-11 for imparting GNM training course with the intake of 50 fresh candidates. The department was granted Provisional Essentiality Certificate by the Department of Medical Education and Research vide Certificate No. 2/47/2010-2HB-III/688 dated 29/1/2010.
- The Department of Health, Government of Punjab submitted its application to the Indian Nursing Council within the stipulated time and the School of Nursing Jalandhar was granted code No. 2609001.
- The request of the State Government for inspection and grant of approval is pending with Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi since January 2010. The Hon'ble Health Minister, Government of Punjab has already requested the Hon'ble Union Health Minister vide DO dated 9/4/2010 and 3/6/2010 for expediting the approval.
- The deadline for admissions is fast approaching and most of the students have been or are being admitted in the private Nursing Schools. The proposed Nursing School at Jalandhar would be the sole GNM Nursing School in Government sector.
- Request for expediting the INC approval.

2. **State Illness Fund (1:2)** - This annual fund of Rs.1.50 crore is contributed in the ratio of 1:2 by Government of India (Rs 50 lac) and State Government (Rs 1.00 Crore). The Committee headed by Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Punjab sanctions funds to BPL patients who are suffering from life threatening diseases. The maximum amount that a patient can get is Rs 1.50 lac.

As of now, the total amount available in this fund is Rs 2.5 Cr including the previous unspent of 2008-09 and 2009-10. During the last 2 years we have been able to spend only Rs 38 lacs inspite of wide publicity and serious efforts.

The State Government with a view to effective implementation of this scheme has been requesting Government of India time and again in regard to the following issues-

- **Allowing Private Hospitals-** There is limited number of Government hospitals in Punjab offering Super Specialty treatment. The State Medical Colleges are not so well equipped and there is only one institute namely Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) Chandigarh which is catering to patients suffering from life threatening diseases. The State Government, accordingly requests the Government of India to modify the guidelines allowing treatment in private Super Specialty Hospitals at PGIMER rates. There should be no objection for treatment in private hospitals at government rates.
- **Increase in number of Beneficiaries-** The number of BPL families under Punjab is hardly 4.4 lacs and the list was last compiled in the year 2000. Government of India is yet to announce the new survey for BPL families. The State Government had accordingly requested that the eligibility limit for State Illness Fund should be raised to Rs 50,000/- annual family income.

3. **Union Health Minister's Discretionary Grant-** We welcome the Union Health Minister's discretionary grant for families having annual income upto Rs 75000/- per annum. The State Government has sought some clarifications vide letter dated 18/6/2010.

The clarifications pertain to the diseases covered under this scheme, certification of annual income and who would send the case and to whom in the Ministry?

4. **Release of funds under NRHM for the financial year 2010-11 -** Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India vide their letter dated 5/5/2010 has approved the State PIP for the year 2010-11 amounting to Rs 382 Cr. The State Health Society has hardly Rs 10 Cr in its bank account. It is requested that the first installment of Government of India assistance for NRHM should be released at the earliest so that we may be able to implement the PIP in time.