

No.52(84)/07-NIPER (Vol.II)
Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
(Department of Pharmaceuticals)

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated 25 Nov. 2008

Subject: Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee for new NIPERS held on 5 Nov.2008 at Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi-Reg.

A copy of the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee for New NIPERS, held on 5 November 2008, under the chairmanship of Secretary (Pharma) is forwarded herewith for information and necessary action.

It is requested that action taken on relevant items may kindly be intimated to this Department.

Jacinta Jose

(Jacinta Jose)(Smt.)

Under Secretary to Government of India

- J.S. Rao*
AL
26/11/08
- To
- CIC*
B.26/11/08
(4)
1. All Members of the Steering Committee (as per list)
 2. Dr D. Yogeswara Rao, Adviser, CSIR, New Delhi.

Copy to:

1. Director General, CSIR, Anusandhan Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi.
2. Director General, ICMR, New Delhi.

Copy also to:

PS to Secretary(Pharma) / PS to AS&FA / PS to JS(GS) / PS to Dir (RCJ)

Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Department of Pharmaceuticals

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee for new NIPERs held on 5th November 2008 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Pharma).

List of participants is at annex.

Secretary (Pharma) chaired the meeting of the Steering Committee for new NIPERs. Secretary (Pharma) welcomed all the participants and expressed his satisfaction with the good work that was being done in the different institutes of the Department, which he had occasion to see for himself while on his visits to these institutes. He also expressed his satisfaction at the signing of MOUs between Department of Pharmaceuticals and the Mentor Institutes (MOUs were signed prior to the meeting of the Steering Committee in the presence of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Hon'ble Minister (C&F&S)).

Shri G.S.Sandhu, Joint Secretary then took up the Agenda Items:

Item No. 1a: Confirmation of the minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Steering Committee held on 19.05.08.

The Minutes were confirmed.

Item No. 1b: Action taken report on the minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Steering Committee held on 19-05-2008.

Noted.

On convening the meetings of the State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC), the following position was reported:

NIPER, Kolkata: Dr. Ashish Banerjee informed that State Level Coordination Committee meeting for NIPER, Kolkata was held on 23-06-2008.

NIPER, Hyderabad: Project Director, Dr. Diwan, informed that State Level Coordination Committee meeting was held on 10-07-2008.

NIPER, Hajipur reported that the 2nd meeting of its SLCC is scheduled on 06-11-2008.

Secretary (Pharma) requested representative from NIPER, Guwahati also to hold its SLCC meeting.

The other agenda items were then taken up.

Item No. 2 : Allotment of Land

Regarding NIPER, Ahmedabad, JS (GS) informed the members that the Government of Gujarat had finalised the lease deed for the land allotted by them and one copy of the same would soon be made available to NIPER, Ahmedabad.

Secretary (Pharma) also informed that he would be talking to Mr. Rajgopalan, State Chief Secretary, in the matter.

Regarding NIPER, Hyderabad, Dr. Diwan, Project Director, highlighted the difficulties in getting water and electricity connection because the IDPL land and building given for NIPER, Hyderabad has not been transferred in the name of NIPER, Hyderabad. He also stressed the need to effect the transfer and the signing of MOU between IDPL and NIPER, Hyderabad.

Secretary (Pharma) requested Dr. Diwan to submit his specific proposal in this regard to the Department and desired that building may be handed over to NIPER formally.

Regarding NIPER, Hajipur, Dr. Pradeep Das, Project Director, informed that some part of the allotted land of 100 acres had been acquired whereas some problem is reported for some part. The issue, however, was to be discussed by Secretary (Pharma) with the State Chief Secretary.

Regarding NIPER, Kolkata, Dr. Ashish Banerjee informed that their SLCC had in its meeting held on 23.6.08, decided that 30 acres of land will be provided to NIPER Kolkata in the 1st phase and the rest in the 2nd phase after more land is acquired in the same Mouza of Baruipur, so that land could be allotted to NIPER, Kolkata as near as possible to its present earmarked location. Chief Secretary, West Bengal had also informed Secretary (Pharma) on 26-08-2008 that the possibilities of allotting 50 acres of land (30 acres for NIPER and 20 acres for associated common facilities will be explored. Secretary (Pharma) had offered to develop these common facilities through NIPER and the Chief Secretary had welcomed the offer. However, Dr. Banerjee reported that in the meeting taken by Chief Secretary on 16.09.08 for building a R&D Hub at Baruipur (on the 120 acres of land at Baruipur earmarked as institutional area), a tentative allocation of only 40 acres of land had been made for NIPER Kolkata which included the land for common facilities (30 acres for NIPER and 10 acres for common facilities).

After this report from the respective NIPERs, Secretary (Pharma) directed that wherever the NIPERs were actually in possession of the allotted land, like in Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Hajipur (partly) possession of land and the preliminary works of design and approvals required for actual construction of the buildings should be taken up. In Hyderabad, where buildings are already there, upgradation thereof, if required, could be taken up and value of buildings paid to IDPL. In Hajipur - in case acquisition of 100 acres does not happen in the near future, structures can come up in the 12.73 acres that have been already allotted by BIADA.

In Guwahati, the contour mapping and architectural design, etc., of the building can be started with the help of CIPET.

Item Nos. 3 & 4: Progress in Teaching:

Project Director, NIPER, Kolkata, Dr. Ashish Banerjee, apprised the Steering Committee that out of 35 students admitted only 32 joined in the 2nd batch (2008-09). Out of these, 1 student left and another student joined NIPER, Mohali. Hence, presently there were only 30 students. Classes were starting on November 6, 2008. The 1st semester final examinations for the first batch of students were held from March 10 to 17, 2008 and the 2nd semester final exams from July 22 to 29, 2008.

Presently, the 3rd semester students of the 1st batch were busy with their project work at different institutions - 10 at CHEMBIOTEK & TCG LIFE SCIENCES, 3 in Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, one in Bose Institute, one in Jadavpur University and 14 in IICB.

Project Director, NIPER, Hyderabad, Dr. Diwan informed that for the first batch the 3rd semester examinations would be held in December 2008. Also that persons from industry were taking classes on Saturday / Sunday or late evening classes on weekdays. 50 - 60% of the syllabus had also been completed.

Project Director, NIPER, Ahmedabad - Prof. Harish Padh, stated that for the 1st batch, the 3rd semester ends in December, 2008 and that they are presently engaged in their project work. Placement activity had already started. The Placement interviews are slated for January - February 2009. In respect of the 2nd batch, classes have been started in August, 2008. Of the students admitted, 2 did not join while 34 students had joined. Time wise, they are in tune with NIPER, Mohali.

NIPER, Hajipur - Dr. Pradeep Das, informed that 29 students joined for three courses. The 1st batch of 10 students, in one stream, who are in their 3rd semester have been sent to different institutions - 2 to Nalanda Medical College, 1 to Patna Medical College, 3 to Cancer Research Institute and 4 in RMRIMS itself for their project work. For the 2nd batch, classes have started on 19th August and their mid-term exams would start on 10th November 2008.

NIPER, Guwahati - Project incharge, informed that the 1st batch started their classes on 17th September 2008. 21 students joined for two courses. In NIPER, Guwahati they are having some problems regarding hostel accommodation. Presently, their students were being provided hostel accommodation in a private building at a very high rate. GMCH did not have any spare hostel accommodation. Secretary (Pharma) desired that NIPER, Guwahati could formally write to the Department suggesting some alternatives on this issue.

Project incharge, NIPER, Rae Bareli informed that classes are scheduled to start here by 3rd week of November 2008 though the admission process is over. He reported that the 3rd and 4th semester will be held in CDRI, Lucknow.

Secretary (Pharma) highlighted the fact that exposure to industry would be a problem for some NIPERs, especially for the NIPERs at Hajipur, Guwahati, Rae Bareli and to some extent Kolkata. Also, except for NIPER, Ahmedabad, no other NIPER will be able to give its students exposure to different facets of pharma industry. He, therefore, felt that if any student is prepared to go out and if industry was willing to take them, then an enabling provision should be made in this respect. Otherwise, in his view, only NIPER, Ahmedabad and NIPER, Mohali will be in an advantageous position. He wanted Director, NIPER, Mohali, to look into this aspect and may devise a scheme, wherein, CSIR could also be involved. In this regard, Secretary (Pharma) directed all NIPERs to send in their suggestions to Director, NIPER, Mohali, who would arrange for consolidated guidelines to be issued in this regard. This would, however, need to be done in conformity with the curriculum and carried on for the same.

Item No. 5 : Budget Allocation, Utilisation & Requirement

AS&FA, Department of Pharmaceuticals, highlighted the fact that only 33-1/3% of the total budget could be released in the last quarter. Also that only funds that could actually be spent should be asked for.

NIPER, Ahmedabad had submitted UC for Rs.2.49 crores. The committed and anticipated expenditure for the period October 2008 to March 2009 had been reflected as Rs.2.41 crores. After offsetting the unspent balance available with them a demand for additional grant of Rs.1.25 crores had been made. The detailed item-wise statement of expenditure for Rs.2.49 crores has to be furnished for processing the additional demand of Rs.1.25 crores.

NIPER, Hajipur – Revised estimates of Rs.7.28 crores for 2008-09 were submitted in the meeting along with UC for Rs.1.50 crores released during the c.f.y. so far. This will be examined in the Department for necessary release.

NIPER, Hyderabad, Kolkata & Guwahati – to submit detailed itemwise utilisation position of grant already released so far and additional requirement, if any, for the c.f.y.(2008-09).

Item No. 6 : Procurement of Equipment

In view of the reservations expressed in taking approvals every time the budget crossed by Rs.25.00 lakhs per annum, Dr.D.Yogeswara Rao, Head, TNBD, CSIR suggested that Director, NIPER, Mohali could call for a meeting of all NIPERs and decide upon a common list of equipments that need to be purchased. The suggestion was accepted by Secretary (Pharma).

Project Directors, NIPER, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Hajipur and Rae Bareli emphasised the requirement for installing the sci-finder.

Director, NIPER, Mohali and Dr.D. Y. Rao of CSIR were of the view that this was required only for the Ph.D programme. Still as others felt, it was required for dissertation, etc., it was decided that where Mentor Institutes are having this facility, it should provide the same to NIPER. Others can place their requirement for sci-finder, the ceiling for which will be Rs.11 lakhs.

Item No. 7 : Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for 2009-10

Shri G.S. Sandhu, JS, apprised the Chair that a Note for the Cabinet is being finalised for extending the present arrangement for conducting classes for a further period till the complete proposal is approved (before the expiry of the two year period that had been approved). Approval is also being sought for starting the Ph.D programme. If approved, a decision regarding the mode of selection of students was required to be taken. After discussions, it was decided that for 2009-10, the selection will be through the JEE conducted by NIPER, Mohali. For 2010-11, the selection could be through the CSIR Test for award of fellowships, in which case, it would be necessary to incorporate a paper on Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Test being conducted by CSIR for this purpose. This will be worked out through a Committee chaired by Dr. D. Yogeswara Rao, Head, TNBD, CSIR.

The Project Directors of all NIPERs were requested to send a wish list for the Ph.D programme to Director, NIPER, Mohali covering the number of students, name of courses, budgetary requirements, and the Project documents giving the details on how they propose to run the Ph.D Programme.

The Project Director, NIPER, Hajipur, wanted some change in their P.G. Courses. It was decided that a proposal for substitution of courses might be sent to the Department.

It was informed by Dr. Rao of CSIR that for Ph.D programme, a Net exam is conducted twice a year by them. A separate paper can be introduced in it for Pharmaceuticals from the year 2010. Till then, NIPER can continue to hold its own exam for Ph.D.

Secretary (Pharma) agreed to the proposal.

Item No. 8 : Award of Degrees

It was decided that the degrees would be signed by four persons, viz., the Registrar (academic counsellor), Dean, Project Director, Director of the Mentor Institute.

Item No. 9 : Project Proposal and sponsored projects at NIPER, Hyderabad

It was also decided that research programmes for longer duration by contractual staff will not be encouraged. Prof. Diwan, wanted to know the position regarding contractual staff taking up small term projects (3-6 months). He was requested to submit his proposal for a decision.

Item No. 10 : PPP in new NIPERs with regard to incubator facilities, clinical research, etc.

NIPER, Ahmedabad apprised the Committee that they will be in a position to start training in clinical research in January 2009. NIPER, Ahmedabad is also in a position to start incubator facilities - they will send in their papers / proposal in this regard.

NIPER, Hajipur intimated that special training for clinical research may be started there in December, 2008 after getting the proposal cleared in their State Level Coordination Committee.

NIPER, Hyderabad intimated that training in clinical research could be started in December 2008. Regarding incubator facilities, the position would be checked and reported.

NIPER, Kolkata intimated that they would be reporting the position after getting the matter examined.

In respect of NIPER, Guwahati, Secretary (Pharma) informed that the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam, had expressed reservation in conducting clinical research. It was decided that activities / training in clinical research will be taken up only with the endorsement of the State Government concerned. Hence, the need to get such proposals approved by the SLCC.

Item No. 11 : Placement

Secretary (Pharma) expressed his concern regarding placement of students of those NIPERs where exposure to industry is negligible. He wanted that all students be given equal opportunities and avenues for appropriate placements. For this to happen, a Placement Cell be created in each NIPER and the Placement in-charge in all NIPERs should be in communication with one another so that requirements of industry and availability of matching students are known.

A booklet containing the bio-data of all students, as is being done by NIPER, Ahmedabad, should be brought out by all NIPERs. NIPER, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad could also arrange visits to industry for other NIPERs in order to facilitate the placements of students.

Letters may also be sent to Pharma Industry Associations about the availability of students. Industry visit for at least one week should be arranged by each NIPER for all the students. Grant would be given by the Department to meet the cost of industry visit as well as participation in seminars by students.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants in the 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee held on Wednesday the 5th November 2008 at 1.00 PM in Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi

Department of Pharmaceuticals

Shri Ashok Kumar, Secretary
Shri Mathew C. Kunnumkal, AS & FA
Shri G.S. Sandhu, Joint Secretary (PI)
Shri R.C. Jha, Director
Smt. Jacinta Jose, Under Secretary
Smt. C.K. Gupta, Section Officer

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research

Dr. D. Yogeswara Rao, Adviser
Dr. Sudeep Kumar, Scientist

NIPER, SAS Nagar, Mohali

Prof. (Dr.) Rama Rao, Director

NIPER, Ahmedabad

Prof. Harish Padh, Director, PERD Centre, Ahmedabad

NIPER, Hajipur

Prof. Pradeep Das, Director, RMRIMS, Patna
Shri N. Kumar, Dy. Director, RMRIMS & Convenor of NIPER

NIPER, Kolkata

Dr. Ashish Kumar Banerjee, Project Director

NIPER, Guwahati

Dr. (Mrs.) Mangala Lahkar, Prof. & Head, Deptt. of Pharmacology,
Gauhati Medical College & Hospital, Guwahati

NIPER, Rae Bareli

Dr. D.K. Dikshit, Project Director