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सर्वाधिक प्रकाशित होने वाला निष्पक्ष समाचार पत्र

पाक्षिक

इलेक्ट्रो होम्यो मेडिकल गजट

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अन्तरविभागीय समिति (IDC) की 11 जनवरी, 2021 की कार्यवाही जारी

अधिकांश सदस्यों ने सकारात्मक टिप्पणियां कीं

भारत सरकार, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा गठित अन्तरविभागीय समिति की पांचवीं बैठक जो दिनांक 11 जनवरी, 2021 को सम्पन्न हुई थी उसकी विस्तृत कार्यवाही स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा जारी की जा चुकी है भारत सरकार, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा गठित अन्तरविभागीय समिति ने अपनी गल 4 बैठकों का भी इस कार्यवाही में विस्तार से उल्लेख किया है, कार्यवाही पर सकारात्मक टिप्पणियां की हैं समिति द्वारा अनेक प्रश्न पर जो भी वांछित है उसके बारे में विस्तार से स्पष्ट किया गया है समिति ने संयुक्त प्रयोजनकर्ताओं का आवाहन किया है कि उन्हें उस रीति और नीति से कार्य करना चाहिये जो उनको सुझाया जा रहा है, भारत सरकार, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा गठित अन्तरविभागीय समिति ने सन् 1920 से लेकर वर्तमान बैठक तक का आंकलन करते हुये विस्तृत चर्चा की है, समिति का मानना है कि सन् 1999 में विशेषज्ञ समिति का गठन किया गया था जिसकी संस्तुतियों के आधार पर इलेक्ट्रो होम्योपैथी द्वारा आवश्यक एवं वांछित मापदण्ड पूरे न किये जाने के कारण इसे मान्यता योग्य नहीं पाया गया किन्तु आगे कार्य करते रहने के लिए भारत सरकार, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा 25 नवम्बर, 2003 को आदेश जारी कर शर्तों के साथ कार्य करने की अनुमति दी गयी।

केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा 25 नवम्बर, 2003 को जारी आदेश के स्पष्टीकरण हेतु दिनांक 5-5-2010 को एक आदेश जारी कर स्पष्ट किया कि माननीय उच्च न्यायालय और माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के आदेशों के अनुसार तब तक याचिकाकर्ताओं को इलेक्ट्रो होम्योपैथी में प्रैक्टिस करने अथवा शिक्षा देने से रोकने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है जब तक कि

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Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(Department of Health Research)

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Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the 'Inter-Departmental Committee for Identifying Viable New Systems of Medicine / Therapy', held as a 'virtual meeting' on 11.01.2021 at 3.00 P.M. to consider the proposal seeking recognition of Electrohomeopathy as a system of medicine

The Fifth Meeting of the 'Inter-Departmental Committee for Identifying Viable New Systems of Medicine / Therapy' (IDC) - under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.M. Katoch, former Secretary, Department of Health Research (DHR)-cum-Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - was held on 11.01.2021, as a virtual meeting, to consider further the proposal, seeking recognition of Electrohomeopathy as a system of medicine. This issue was considered twice in the past by the IDC, but it remained inconclusive as IDC was not satisfied with the scientific material contained in the proposal. In its last meeting, held on 27.05.2019, IDC had asked the joint body of electrohomeopathy organizations for more data on the subject. Further, during the last meeting, the committee had noted that though the twenty-nine organizations, invited to the IDC meeting of 09.01.2018, were requested by the committee to come up with one unanimous common proposal - however, there was difference of opinion among the organizations, resulting in some of them having not participated in the making of the combined proposal, which was considered by IDC on 27.05.2019. Therefore, IDC decided to see the proposal from that dissident group also.

2. Additional data was submitted by the joint body on 16.12.2019. Subsequently, on 07.11.2020, the joint body - under the letter-head of 'Joint Body Electro-Homeopathic Proposalist Committee of India', New Delhi - submitted, *suo moto*, supplementary information on the subject. And, on 22.12.2020, they again submitted one consolidated document, containing the information submitted by them on 16.12.2019 as well as on 07.11.2020.

यह दिनांक 25 नवम्बर 2003 के आदेश से किया जाता है, मेडिसिन की नई पद्धतियों को मान्यता प्रदान करने के विधान के अधिनियम होने के पश्चात किसी भी क्रियाकलाप अथवा शिक्षा को उक्त अधिनियम के अनुसार विनियमित किया जायेगा।

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा गठित अन्तरविभागीय समिति द्वारा प्रयोजनकर्ताओं से निरन्तर यह अपेक्षा की जाती रही है कि उनके द्वारा वह सबकुछ उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा जो किसी नई चिकित्सा पद्धति के लिए आवश्यक होता है, प्रयोजनकर्ताओं ने कहा कि उन्होंने यथासामर्थ्य वांछित की पूर्ति करने का प्रयास किया है किन्तु संसाधनों के अभाव में उस प्रकार की पूर्ति नहीं हो सकी जैसाकि समिति हमसे अपेक्षा करती थी समिति के अधिकांश सदस्यों ने प्रयोजनकर्ताओं को वांछित की पूर्ति हेतु प्रत्येक प्रश्न पर अपने सकारात्मक सुझाव दिये जिससे ऐसा आभास होता है कि समिति के सदस्य बहुमत के साथ इलेक्ट्रो होम्योपैथी को मान्यता देने के पक्ष में हैं किन्तु वांछित की पूर्ति के बिना वह असम्भव प्रतीत हो रहा है, प्रयोजनकर्ताओं के समूह के प्रतिनिधि ने भारत सरकार, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा गठित अन्तरविभागीय समिति से मांग की कि आंकड़े संरक्षित एवं उपलब्ध कराने हेतु वह किसी सरकारी अभिकरण को नियुक्त कर दें जिसके साथ वह मिलकर वांछित आंकड़े समिति को उपलब्ध करा सकें समिति द्वारा यह स्पष्ट किया गया कि वह अपने एशोसिएशन के माध्यम से यह कार्य स्वयं कर सकते हैं, समिति ने बहुत से ऐसे सुझाव दिये जो उपयोगी के साथ-साथ सशुभ एवं आंकड़े उपलब्ध कराने में सहायक हो सकते हैं उन्होंने यह भी सुझाव दिया कि आप आग्रह की विभिन्न विधाओं से भी इस सम्बन्ध में सहयोग प्राप्त कर सकते हैं उदाहरण स्वरूप एक्सपेंचर पद्धति के लोगों ने स्वयं ही काम किया किन्तु उन्हें एलोपैथी चिकित्सकों का बहुमूल्य सहयोग भी प्राप्त हुआ जिसके कारण वह वांछित की पूर्ति कर पाये।

मान्यता का प्रकरण रहेगा जारी

भारत सरकार स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य एवं अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा गठित अन्तरविभागीय समिति



की गत 11 जनवरी, 2021 की बैठक की कार्यवाही परिदृश्य में आ गयी है, बैठक के सार के सम्बन्ध में लोगों द्वारा अनेकों धम फैलाये गये थे कि आगामी 6 माह में इलेक्ट्रो होम्योपैथी बन्द हो जायेगी और इसको हवा देने के लिए अनेकों दावे भी किये गये थे लोगों को एक नया काम मिल गया और वे बैठकों का आयोजन करने लग गये, उनका तो काम ही है धम फैलाना और वे नई-नई रूप देखा तैयार करने लग गये, गजट द्वारा पहले ही स्पष्ट किया गया था कि इलेक्ट्रो होम्योपैथी पर न कमी रोक थी और न है और न कमी होगी।

बैठकों के बाद लोगों ने जिस प्रकार धम फैलाया कि मानों अगले 6 माह में इलेक्ट्रो होम्योपैथी बन्द ही हो जायेगी, धम फैलाने वालों का क्या उद्देश्य था ! इसके पीछे किनका हाथ था !! तथा इससे उनको क्या लाभ होने वाला था !!! यह तो वही जान सकते हैं किन्तु उनके द्वारा फैलाये गये धम का पटाक्षेप भारत सरकार, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा गठित अन्तर विभागीय समिति द्वारा दिनांक 11 जनवरी, 2021 की बैठक की कार्यवाही से हो गया है कार्यवाही से स्पष्ट हो गया है कि इलेक्ट्रो होम्योपैथी निरन्तर चलती रहेगी परन्तु अब निश्चित निर्धारित समय सीमा के अन्दर वांछित की पूर्ति प्रयोज्यकर्ताओं द्वारा करनी होगी, "अब केवल बैठकों एवं बातों से काम नहीं चलेगा" भारत सरकार, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा गठित (IDC) द्वारा दी गयी दिशा के अनुरूप कार्य करना होगा जिससे वांछित की पूर्ति सुविधा अनुसार की जा सके यदि अभी भी प्रयोज्यकर्ताओं ने उदासीनता बरती तो निश्चित तौर पर लक्ष्य दूर हो सकता है भारत सरकार स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा जो कार्यवाही जारी की है वह पूरी तरह से सकारात्मक है IDC के अध्यक्ष सहित अधिकांश सदस्यों ने इस पर अपनी सहमति व्यक्त की है जिससे यह स्पष्ट सन्देश मिलता है कि 4 वर्ष बीतने के बाद भी IDC के लगभग सभी सदस्य आज भी सहमत हैं कि इलेक्ट्रो होम्योपैथी को कार्य का अवसर मिलना चाहिये।

ऐसी स्थिति में सभी प्रयोज्यकर्ताओं तथा उन सभी सहभागियों को चाहिये कि जो भारत सरकार, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा गठित IDC के समक्ष उपस्थित होते रहे हैं तथा बैठकों में सम्मिलित होने के लिए दावे करते रहे हैं जारी कार्यवाही का मत्नीमांति सहमता से अध्ययन करें तथा एक-एक बिन्दु पर सभी सदस्यों के विचार जानने के बाद उनके द्वारा की गयी टिप्पणी/वांछित की पूर्ति के लिए यथा सम्भव प्रयास करें यदि किसी अन्य साथी/संगठन/व्यक्ति से जो भी अपेक्षित हो उससे प्राप्त करने का प्रयास करें जिससे भारत सरकार स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य एवं अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा गठित IDC द्वारा वांछित तथा उनके अनुरूप उपलब्ध कराने में सफलता प्राप्त कर सके।

इस सम्बन्ध में समिति ने भी प्रयोज्यकर्ताओं से अपेक्षा की है कि वह उन सभी लोगों से सम्बन्ध व सम्पर्क स्थापित करें जो उनके लिए सहयोगी साबित हो सकते हैं समिति ने उनपर भी टिप्पणी की है जो संयुक्त प्रयोज्यकर्ताओं का सहयोग नहीं करना चाहते हैं अथवा अपने अस्तित्व को अलग बनाये रखना चाहते हैं यदि वे संयुक्त प्रयोज्यकर्ताओं को सहयोग नहीं करना चाहते हैं तो उन्हें चाहिये कि वह स्वयं आगे आकर आवश्यक एवं ऐच्छिक मापदण्ड की पूर्ति के लिए भारत सरकार, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा गठित IDC के सामने आये तथा वांछित की पूर्ति में अपना सहयोग प्रदान करें जिससे मान्यता का प्रकरण पूर्णतः को प्राप्त हो।

अस्तु भारत सरकार स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मन्त्रालय, स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग द्वारा जारी कार्यवाही से सभी प्रयोज्यकर्ता एवं अन्य सहभागी लाभ उठाये जिससे इलेक्ट्रो होम्योपैथी को बहुप्रतीक्षित मान्यता प्राप्त हो सके, यदि अभी भी इलेक्ट्रो होम्योपैथिक चिकित्सकों, संगठनों, गिर्भ संस्थाओं ने इस पर गहनता से विचार न किया तो लक्ष्य से बहुत दूर हो जायेंगे तथा 1999 से जो प्रक्रिया चल रही है और उसमें जो सकारात्मकता दिख रही है उसमें विराम लगने में सन्देह नहीं किया जा सकता है इसलिए जो भी सहयोग कर सकते हैं करें, क्योंकि संयुक्त प्रयोज्यकर्ताओं को अब निर्धारित समय सीमा के अन्दर वांछित, आवश्यक एवं ऐच्छिक मापदण्डों की पूर्ति करना आवश्यक हो गया है।

Therefore, this consolidated document was the only agenda-item for consideration by IDC on 11.01.2021. It may be mentioned that the aforesaid dissident group, who was asked to submit their joint proposal, could not do so until at the eleventh hour. Therefore, their proposal could not be placed before the IDC, as the time available was not sufficient to circulate the papers among all the members, which was a pre-requisite.

3.1 Dr. Dharmendra Singh Gangwar, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, who attended the last IDC meeting on the subject as a 'special invitee,' could not join the meeting on 11.01.2021, and, in his place, Ms Vandana Jain, Joint Secretary (IFD) attended. Dr. Debprasad Chattopadhyay, Director, ICMR-National Institute of Traditional Medicine (NITM), attended the meeting as a 'Special Invitee'. Among the expert members of the committee, Dr. Rajababu Panwar and Dr. K.K. Talwar did not attend the meeting. Representatives of the Governments of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal and the NCT of Delhi participated in the virtual meeting. Lists of the attendees are placed at Annex-I & Annex-II.

3.2 Nobody from the 'National Medical Commission'(NMC) attended the meeting. However, in his letter, dated 11.01.2021, Dr. R.K. Vats, Secretary (NMC), conveyed the following message :

"Please refer to your meeting notice No. U-11018/09/2019-HR(ASM)/8030665 dated 6th January, 2021. In this connection, I am directed to inform you that the National Medical Commission regulates the medical education in modern medicine only and does not support any system which is not evidence based. The documents attached with the letter under reference do not contain any such information about Electro Homeopathy, and, hence, NMC does not consider Electro Homeopathy as a viable new system of therapy. This may be taken on record."

4. At the outset, Shri D.R. Meena, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health Research (DHR) - on behalf of Ms Anu Nagar, Joint Secretary (DHR) & Convener (IDC), who was unable to attend the meeting because of a very urgent official work - welcomed the Chairperson and the Members of IDC, the special invitees and the representatives of the joint body of electrohomeopathy organizations to the meeting. He briefly narrated the purpose of the meeting, and requested the Chairperson to take over for further proceedings.

5.1 Initiating the deliberations, Dr. V.M. Katoch, Chairperson (IDC) too welcomed everybody, including his learned colleagues, special invitees and representatives of the joint body and others to the meeting. He briefly re-visited the issue, including deliberations held in the previous meeting of the committee. He mentioned that there was some delay in holding this meeting, which was attributable to the extraordinary situation prevailing in the country due to the Covid-19 pandemic and some other priorities. He mentioned that the issue was not a new one, as he himself was aware of the situation since the year 2008 and fruitful presentation was made by the Department, but the crucial point, i.e., recognition of the system, had eluded so far. This was solely because a proper proposal for official recognition of a medicine system - containing authentic scientific publications, documents, information and detailed data to facilitate proper examination of the issue - was yet to be received by the government/IDC from any quarter. He reiterated what actually should be submitted to IDC for proper appraisal of the proposal, which was emphasized by the committee in the previous two meetings also. He observed that the latest document submitted by the joint body was not insufficient, and lacked what was actually required, and emphasized, by IDC. He said that the committee required some genuine publications / literature on the system which could be relied upon, including those from the countries where the electrohomeopathy system had originated and/or was recognized and practised. He mentioned that authentic and precise data/literature on the diseases cured by electrohomeopathy mode, patient-wise data about disease suffered from, treatment method adopted, electrohomeopathy medicines

used in curing the ailments, percentage of recovery, etc., should be diligently collected from across the country, and properly compiled in presentable documents.

5.2 Chairperson further observed that required information and document was not there. For example, it was stated that education was being imparted and diploma, etc., being awarded, but what was the basis for that? Where were these medical colleges and mortuaries/ infrastructure where students were taught, what were the books, who wrote them and their qualifications / background, who taught and their qualifications, what were the method for teaching / training, who approved the course curriculum, what was the benchmark, etc. All these aspects needed to be properly explained, supported with evidence. Then, if they were treating patients, who authorized them to use the term 'Doctor' before their names, who authorized them to diagnose diseases and treat, whether they were aware of the rights of the patients they were treating. All such questions would automatically come up, and my colleagues here, including those from Ministry of Health & FW, ICMR, NITI Aayog, Ministry of Law, etc., would like to know. He said that it was for the joint body experts, representing many associations, to enlighten the committee about the merits of their proposal. He observed this committee had been quite sympathetic in the past and at present also, to the cause of the organizations, and he himself had gone through huge amount of papers/books/ documents on the subject, received from organizations in the past and on this occasion also. He said that some fundamental questions raised by him earlier required to be answered, for example, about drugs/products standardization, i.e., what was the mode of standardization of products, how the products were labelled and shelved. Though there were some data from Jaipur laboratory, but replies to these points were not found in the original or supplementary documents. Then the issue of original books / literature was very important. While some had been mentioned, but that was not enough. He requested the joint body to make their presentation in 15-20 minutes to focus on these crucial issues.

6. Initiating joint body's response, Dr. Kuldip Tiwari (NEHM of India) made a few introductory remarks, and referred to some of the points that came up during IDC's last meeting, answers to which were mailed. He then requested his colleague, Dr. Ajit Singh (ERDO), to elaborate. Dr. Ajit Singh clarified that electrohomoeopathy was different from homoeopathy. As regards pharmacopeia, Dr. Singh mentioned that in Indian homoeopathy pharmacopeia, the Spagyric methodology of making tincture and essence was not considered because Spagyrics did nothing in homoeopathy pharmacy, and that they were never proven on healthy body and was not a part of homoeopathic materia medica. On the other hand, he mentioned, in Germany and rest of Europe, Spagyric tincture and essence were used widely. As regards absence of the latest standardized and authentic scientific literature and journals, Dr. Ajit Singh mentioned that electrohomoeopathy was fully developed in India for 100 years, and that fundamental books and literature on the system, available in Germany, Italy and France, were translated into English and Indian language by eminent electropaths, however, their standardization was lacking in the absence of a regulatory body. He mentioned that there was lot of literature/journals published from time to time, some of which was attached to their proposal. As regards latest research on the system, it was mentioned that clinical data had been developed through their doctors, clinical trials done on animals, physiological and micro-biological studies done, thousands of patients were treated in the country without a single casualty till date, more scientific study done by national and international bodies and papers published. He, however, observed that they need some help to improve their efforts. Dr. Kuldip Tiwari too requested for some government support.

7. Chairperson observed that he had already seen these clarifications in the morning, sent by the joint body. He observed that the issue of original books / literature was very important. While some had been mentioned, but that was not enough. To a very specific query from the Chairperson, Dr. Kuldip Tiwari categorically admitted that there was no authentic arrangement for procurement of drugs, which were mainly brought from Germany, and required mixing was done by the doctors here individually. Dr. Tiwari also added that there was no proper procedure for licensing. He pleaded for support from the Government or its agencies in the matter.

8. At this juncture, Dr. Abdulrazzaque Abdulhameed Qureshi, Solapur, who was permitted to attend the meeting, mentioned that medicines were prepared/combined, and was available in India also, and that which were not available here, were brought from abroad. But, Chairperson commented that even if it was understood that some combining process was available in India also and some material was imported in spagyric form, but the fact remained that some standard materia medica / pharmacopeia should be there to take care of these aspects, based on which only the committee could make proper assessment. Dr. Qureshi mentioned the process he had adopted for preparation of drugs at individual level, but could not confirm that there was any standard pharmacopeia, common to all. At this juncture, Dr. Kuldip Tiwari mentioned that information on this aspect was contained in the document submitted by them. To a query from the Chair about the particular page number in the document where it has been mentioned, Dr. Tiwari could not provide the information. Chairperson mentioned that he had read each page of the

document, but could not find the information. He then invited Dr. Y.K. Gupta, (Retd.) HoD(Pharmacology), AIIMS, New Delhi, for his views.

9. Dr. Y.K. Gupta stressed that for development of a system, proper format or process is very important. Capacity building was a separate thing, but a process must be there in the first instance. Elaborating on Dr. Gupta's point, Dr. Katoch, Chairperson, asked Dr. Kuldip Tiwari that even though the system was not recognized as yet, whether that process or pharmacopeia was there, which could guide regarding what to do and what not to do, and whether 200 of 200 preparations/ drugs were explained there. Dr. Tiwari requested Dr. Ajit Singh to clarify. Dr. Singh stated that for many years, they had been following the German Homoeopathy Pharmacopeia (GMP) for preparation of medicines, and carrying out clinical testing to ascertain the efficiency and safety of the medicine, and clinical data was also maintained, and this was the format. At this, the Chairperson requested Dr. Ajit Singh to send a copy of the standard document, which they were following in the matter, to the Department of Health Research, who would then forward the same to Dr. Y.K. Gupta for his perusal and recommendation, if any. Dr. Gupta agreed to this suggestion.

10. Chairperson requested Dr. Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission, for his comments. Dr. Patwardhan observed that answers to many questions asked for earlier, were not found in the papers submitted by the joint body. One of them was that it had been claimed that electropathy practitioners had been practicing the system for many years, but proper documentation about the benefit to the public, out of that practice, was not there. Also, it had not been indicated as to whether the clinical practice, stated to had been done in the system for years together as well as the conditions for which the system had been found to be more effective, had been properly documented. Thirdly, as regards research, some scientific research should be there, and nothing was found in this regard in the papers. Some publications submitted here were not that useful and might not hold good. What was required, he commented, were publications from some good scientific journals.

11. Elaborating on the remarks made by Dr. Patwardhan, the Chairperson, while appreciating whatever efforts had been made towards the cause for some

years by Dr. Tiwari and others, observed that though a few books might have been published by some persons, including Dr. Awasthi in India, but they had basically repeated the same thing which were written in books abroad. There might have been books in India, which were written many years ago, but those had not taken into account latest developments. However, if there was, at least, any published book in this country, which had properly documented treatment of patients in various electrohomoeopathy clinics/ hospitals in the country, with details about the patients, ailments, symptoms, diagnosis made, medicines administered, effect of medicine on the patients, cure, etc., - and which document was open to inspection by visiting experts at the clinics, hospitals concerned - might be of help in the matter. Chairperson observed that this was the essence of what had been the views of Dr. Patwardhan, who had stressed on this point earlier also, and, apparently, answers to these aspects had not been provided so far.

12. Dr. V.M. Katoch, Chairperson, observed that some write-up was there on one dengue case, there was some philosophy written about some diabetes case, few review papers were also there, but no document was there on the benefit, if any, that might have accrued to a large segment of patients. Chairman observed that there were so many bodies on electrohomoeopathy, and had there been a body, comprising experts from the fields of electrohomoeopathy, medicine, AYUSH, etc., perhaps the required clinical data, documents could have been developed. He made it categorically clear to Dr. Kuldip Tiwari, representative of the joint body, that such data was a must, as matter could not be taken forward merely on the basis of faith. He observed that it would be difficult for the IDC to make any recommendation in the absence of all these data. While the issue might once again be reviewed by IDC before framing any report, but there would be a stage in future, where such data would be called for. He mentioned that in other systems also, there had been original data, and there are numerous data in the AYUSH system, and that without such document / data, the matter can not be taken forward. He said that Dr. Patwardhan has already made this point very clear.

13. In reply, Dr. Kuldip Tiwari admitted that though they appreciated the advice given by the Chairperson and Dr. Patwardhan, however, the thing was that everything asked for was there, but definitely not in an organized way. He mentioned about some trial in Odisha University and elsewhere. He stated that

there was need for a directive from the Government, there was need for an organized body, which would help to organize the activities in the proper manner, and in the manner desired by the committee.

14. Dr. Y.K. Gupta intervened to say that no such directive / body could be there from the side of the Government. There were so many organizations in the country dealing with electrohomoeopathy, so many associations had joined together to submit the document, it was for them only to build up proper documentation to justify their proposal, which has also been stressed by Dr. Patwardhan. Dr. Gupta commented that the bodies themselves had to build up proper scientific document/journals, mentioning which were national, which were international, whether the journals here were internationally accepted, etc. He stressed that it was a must, and mere photocopies of some publications, attached to the proposal, would not serve the purpose.

15. W.r.t. comments made by Dr. Abdulrazzaque Abdulhameed Qureshi about availability of data, the Chairperson observed that there were so many associations, there were so many diploma-holders, etc., doing practice, therefore, there should have been some collective data regarding how many patients had been treated, their ailments, medicines, applied, etc. He added that even if there was no book on this aspect, at least some collective data should be there. Dr. Y.K. Gupta also commented on the same lines. He told Dr. Qureshi that, may be, some research had been done, but the evidence, in the form of detailed data about curing different ailments in different parts of the country, should be there. He added that there should be case histories about

treatment of many patients, not one or two patients. At this stage, Dr. Qureshi commented that until and unless the Government provided some help, it would be difficult. Chairperson observed that the Government was not supposed to do this. In this context, he observed that in various medical colleges and hospitals, doctors and professors themselves, and not the Government, were doing research, building up clinical data, etc.

16. The Chairperson observed that electrohomoeopathy practice, perhaps, started in India, in Kanpur, in the year 1920. Therefore, sufficient data should have been there in the matter by now. He mentioned that when he was in office as the first Secretary in DHR, Government had issued an order in the year 2010 for not stopping practice/education in the system. He also referred to an

order of the High Court at Madurai, issued last year, asking the Government to take action against the institutes imparting education in the system. In any case, having appreciated the joint body's efforts in collecting some data, he suggested that even now all the organizations might sit together, even by way of video conferencing, in a collective manner and involving all in the trade in the country, in order to build up a solid data document, based on the experience of treatment over the past hundred years and clinical histories of the treatments carried out in different clinics, hospitals in the country, albeit such a process might take some months. He observed that unlike the 1999 experts' committee, which rejected this system outright, and based on which Government issued as order in the year 2003, the present Inter-Departmental Committee was giving them enough time and opportunity to make out an evidence-based presentable case. He observed that this committee was four-years old, but it had yet not rejected their proposal, and it was adopting a positive approach towards their cause and wanted them to make a consolidated case, with scientific data-base. The committee believed that some good results might have been achieved after treating ailments through this system, but necessary evidence needs to be developed in order to make any headway. Chairperson then decided to hear the members of the IDC only.

17. Being invited by the Chairperson for his advice, Dr. Darshan Shankar, Vice-Chancellor, Trans Disciplinary University, Bengaluru, commented that he totally agreed to what had been stressed upon by the Chairperson.

18. Thereafter, Dr. Debprasad Chattopadhyay, Director, National Institute of Traditional Medicine (NITM-ICMR), commented that while all the relevant issues had already been focused by the Chairperson, he particularly pointed out that the procedure of preparation of medicine, as mentioned in the papers he had gone through, was wrong, and that there was difference between what they were saying and what they were doing. In this regard, he said, the organizations might visit a few laboratories, and tried to validate the procedure. Drawing attention of Dr. Kuldip Tiwari to the observations by Dr. Chattopadhyay, Dr. Katoch, Chairperson, observed this aspect was very important and should be addressed to. He mentioned that reference had been made to some Jaipur laboratory, proportion of alcohol and water for mixing, etc., had been mentioned, but a standard procedure, which was contained in a Pharmacopeia, needed to be there, and needed to be provided by them.

19. Dr. Kuldip Tiwari raised the issue of high cost involved in the matter. Chairperson stated that it could even been done in some small research laboratories, that might not be that costly, and the results of mixing and its efficacy could be suitably recorded. He mentioned that in the three meetings held so far in the subject - which had been attended by eminent persons like Dr. Y.K. Gupta, Dr. Bhushan Patwardhan, Dr. Darshan Shankar and others, and scientist from ICMR, Dr. Rajni Kaul, Director (NITM) - the idea had been to help the organizations to come up with a concrete proposal, and, as a matter of fact, the ultimate aim was to help the public, if they could benefit from this new method of treatment.

To be continued