

No. U-11018/09/2019-HR (ASM)/8030665

Government of India

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

(Department of Health Research)

IRCS Building, 2nd Floor,
1, Red Cross Road, New Delhi-110001.

Dated, the 19th February, 2021.

Subject : Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the 'Inter-Departmental Committee for Identifying Viable New Systems of Medicine / Therapy' (IDC), held as a 'virtual meeting' on 11.01.2021 at 3.00 PM, to consider proposal for recognition of Electrohomoeopathy as a system of medicine.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith, for information and necessary action, a copy of the 'Minutes' of the Fifth Meeting of the 'Inter-Departmental Committee for Identifying Viable New Systems of Medicine / Therapy' (IDC), which was held on 11.01.2021 as a virtual meeting in order to consider the proposal, seeking recognition of 'Electrohomoeopathy' as a system of medicine.

Encl. : As stated.



(Mohan Lal)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

To

1. Chairperson and Members of the 'Inter-Departmental Committee for identifying viable new systems of medicine / therapy' (*As per the List of Participants*).
2. Representative of the joint body of Electrohomoeopathy organisations (Dr. Kuldip Tiwari), who may share the 'minutes' with all the members of the joint body, including those who attended the meeting along with him.
3. Other participants.

Copy to :

1. Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi -110011.
2. Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Ayush Bhawan, B-Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi – 110023.
3. Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Principal Adviser, Niti Aayog, New Delhi.
5. Dr. Dharmendra Singh Gangwar, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi – 110011.
6. Director-General of Health Services, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011.
7. Drugs Controller General (India), New Delhi.

8. Joint Secretary (Medical Education), Department of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi- 110011.
9. Joint Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Ayush Bhawan, B-Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi – 110023.
10. Dr. K.K. Talwar, Chairman, PSRI Heart Institute, PSRI Hospital, Press Enclave Marg, Seikh Sarai -II, New Delhi-110017.
11. Dr. Raja Babu Panwar, Vice-Chancellor, Rajasthan University of Health Sciences, Sector 18, Kumbha Marg, Pratap Nagar, Tonk Road, Jaipur -302033, Rajasthan.
12. Secretary, National Medical Commission, New Delhi.
13. Secretary, University Grants Commission, New Delhi.
14. Website of DHR.

Copy, also, to:

Sr.PPS to Secretary (DHR) & DG (ICMR)/ PPS to JS(AN) / PS to DS(DRM)/Guard File


(Mohan Lal)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

No. U-11018/09/2019-HR (ASM)/8030665

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

Dated : 19.02.2021

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.

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 electrohomoeopathy 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 revisited 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 electrohomoeopathy system had originated and/or was recognized and practised. He mentioned that authentic and precise data/literature on the diseases cured by electrohomoeopathy mode, patient-wise data about disease suffered from, treatment method adopted, electrohomoeopathy 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 pharmacoepea, Dr. Singh mentioned that in Indian homoeopathy pharmacoepea, 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 sparygic 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 pharmacoepea, 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 pharmacoepea 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 Pharmacoepea (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 Commieeion, 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. Kuldeep 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. Kuldeep 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 sad, 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. Kuldeep 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.

20. Dr. K. Bakshi, Hyderabad, stated that there was science, not miracle, in the treatments on cancer, kidney and heart ailments, and he had compiled scientific data for 30 years, and if permitted by the Chairperson, he could submit the same, along with the information on the cost involved. Chairperson asked him and Dr. S.K. Golam Masud to submit the same by way of a proper document, on behalf of the joint federation.

21. Vaid Kuldeep Raj Kohli, Director (AYUSH), representative of the Government of Maharashtra, stated that though many scientific evidences / data would be there later on, but, to begin with, they had to submit some such data in the beginning itself to go ahead in the matter. He suggested that they might be allowed some sufficient time - and one year might be good enough - to compile such data. Chairperson supported his suggestion as the committee wants to provide them ample chance in the matter, and did not want to close the chapter.

22. Being invited by the Chairperson, Dr. Rajni Kaul, Scientist G, ICMR, commented that the Standing Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 27.08.1999, had considered the electrohomeopathy system, based on the essential and desirable criteria laid down by the committee, and this Indian system was not recommended for recognition. And, after so many years today, this system was again unable to satisfy the information required in respect of laid-down criteria, which were further endorsed by IDC. The electrohomeopathy practitioners should submit

the compiled data of, at least, last five years, showing clinical promise in specific indications.

23. Prof. (Dr.) Rajat Chattopadhyay, Principal, Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, representing the Government of West Bengal, stated that he completely agreed with what the Chairperson and other experts had emphasized on. He stated he attended earlier meeting also on the issue, and the need for genuine scientific data was highlighted earlier also. Some papers were submitted that time also, but that was not sufficient. He observed that whatever literature had been submitted now, that did not look to have been taken from reputed scientific journals. He mentioned that huge clinical data and scientific evidence would be required, along with good and reputed publications on the subject.

24. Elaborating on valuable inputs from the West Bengal representative, the Chairperson advised Dr. Kuldeep Tiwari to initiate the job of compiling a presentable data document as well as making of a good journal, and in this exercise, they should take along everybody in this field. Chairperson mentioned that in the case of acupuncture, contributions to journals were made by not only the acupuncturists but by the Allopaths also. He advised that they could take inputs and help from experts like Dr. Y.K. Gupta, Dr. Patwardhan, Allopaths, Ayush doctors also. He observed that things could not be achieved in such matters through legal recourse or political pressure. Good scientific and authentic publications, journals, data document were unavoidable. Dr. Kuldeep Tiwari appreciated the ideas given by the members and pleaded for more time. The Chairperson asked him to prepare guidelines also so that they could present their case in a proper way.

25. Chairperson then called upon Dr. L. Swasthicharan, Addl. DDG, Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for his inputs. Thanking the Chairperson, Dr. Swasthicharan commented that though some progress had been made in the presentations made by different members of the organizations, compared to that on the last occasion, but there was a long way to go. He totally agreed to the valuable observations and suggestions made by the Chairperson and other experts, and commented that there was need to put the case together very strongly. He stated that had he been one of members, he would make a checklist of all the

suggestions given in the meeting, and then he would try to collect all the evidences, all the case-studies, all the information that are available with the practitioners and then organize all these things in a systematic way. Thereafter, he suggested, comparison with other systems, like Allopathy and Ayush, would be helpful to know precisely as to where this case stood. He added that comparison, particularly with the Ayush system, would be easier, for example, with Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Siddha and other branches. He stated that so far some individualistic data was there, but it would not help, and the it must be a collective one. Only then, he concluded, some progress could be achieved.

26. Chairperson appreciated Dr. Swasthicharan, and observed that his inputs were very objective and open. He advised that the organizations must do it as there was no other way. He also observed that in view of the orders of the court to close systems not recognized, not much time was available for them to complete the exercise, and, may be, they would have to do it within this year. He reiterated that a good document should be there, and if there was some monogram on it, it could be used for further growth, and that there was no harm in making comparisons. He observed that though there was experience, there was expertise, but there was no collective effort for making a presentable and reliable scientific data-base and literature.

27. Summing up his inputs, Dr. Y.K. Gupta advised the organizations that they had a golden opportunity, with Dr. Katoch at the helm of the Inter-Departmental Committee, to achieve their cause with a do-or-die approach. Otherwise, may be, someday they might be asked to close down the system by court or other authority, but this committee was so much inclined to help them achieve their purpose. He stated that in spite of having experts, it was a fact that they did not have any good publications in any good and reputed scientific journal, and that might be due to absence of any proper system or facility and, also, but it might be difficult for them to put together overnight a realistic journal in a limited time, but there were certain things they could do now. First, they should do brain-storming session by bringing together all their experts in the country, then made a list of all the passed-out experts in the country with full details as to what they were doing, etc., assigned precise jobs to their people, organized 3 or 4 workshops to decide as to which documents to be made in, say three months for submission to this committee, as the document submitted for the current meeting was quite ineffective. The

document should contain information about their strength area, investigations, the diseases that had been cured and how cured, etc. He observed that individual case-reports were regarded at the lowest level in the level of evidence. He said that there should be case series, followed with matter analysis, hypothesis, vision, plan for collaboration, etc. They should compile information about human resources available, how many books, laboratories and other infrastructure. He mentioned that they had some information/ data, but in a scattered manner. These should be properly compiled. Dr. Gupta's suggestions were appreciated by the Chairperson.

28. He then called upon other State representatives to offer their views in the matter. Dr. Brender Sharma, Deputy Director (Homoeopathy), Directorate of Ayush, Government of NCT of Delhi, stated that valuable suggestions had been given in the meeting, and there should be very valid and solid answer to these suggestions and they should focus on these, and there should be effort to find out scientific background in case they want to establish this system. Dr. Katoch thanked him for his inputs.

29. Thanking Dr. Brender Sharma for his inputs, Dr Katoch, Chairperson, told Dr. Kuldip Tiwari that it was not that efforts were not made by them, but the fact was that those efforts were not up to the desired level. He observed that good inputs were provided in the earlier two meetings also, but today there had been very good and fruitful deliberations, with everybody coming up with very open and frank suggestions, joint body representatives too having spoken with open mind. He mentioned that different participants had spoken in their different way, but a common suggestion of compiling and presenting the data in a meaningful way, has come up in the meeting.

30. Thereafter, the Chairperson requested Shri Anand Kumar Sharma, Additional Director (Ayurveda), Government of Rajasthan, for his comments. Shri Anand Kumar Sharma commented that he was attending the meeting for the first time, and that there was very fruitful discussion today. He informed that the Rajasthan Assembly had passed the Bill for recognition of the system in the year 2018, and, thereafter, the government has constituted another committee for the purpose of execution of the matter. He stated that similar things were discussed in the meetings of that committee, and the points discussed in today's meeting would be useful for the next meeting of that

committee. After requisite data, evidence was made available, further progress would be made in the matter. Chairperson appreciated the will-power and the efforts of the State Government to establish a new system, and requested Shri Sharma that whenever some progress was made, that may also be shared with the Department of Health Research and they may be kept in the picture, as they are also involved in the similar process. Shri Sharma thanked the Chairperson.

31. At the end, Dr. Abdulrazzaque Abdulhameed Qureshi mentioned that unless and until some validity was there from the Government side, how they could go ahead in the matter. Chairperson told him that there was no question of any validity from the Government side at this stage, and that they themselves would have to promote their case. He stated that the 'minutes' of this meeting would go to him also, and this might help them in the matter.

32. Conclusions

Common views in the meeting were that the proposal submitted for recognition of Electrohomoeopathy as a system of medicine, lacked detailed and authentic scientific information and data, without which the Inter-Departmental Committee was unable to properly assess the viability of the system and progress further. It was noted that in spite of the claims that this system was being widely practiced in the country for almost a century now, however, necessary records / documents did not appear to have been developed and maintained in combined and standard manner, which were very essential and unavoidable for promotion and further development of any system of healthcare. In the meeting today, all the experts, including those from the four State Governments, had been unanimous in their views that there ought to be properly-compiled detailed clinical data to establish the efficacy / efficiency of electrohomoeopathy treatment, a common standard pharmacopeia for manufacture of medicines in the country and related activities, publications in reputed scientific national / international journals and or well analysed monographs of clinical data from different centres, etc. All these issues were deliberated in detail in the meeting, and all the proponents of the system were advised to prepare a check-list of the things to be done, as suggested by each of the experts in the meeting, and then to initiate and complete the exercise in a do-or-die manner. They were advised to work together, taking along all in

the trade in the country, so that they could compile common solid and valid data/documents for submission to the Inter-Departmental Committee for its further review. They were also assured that the committee was positively inclined towards their cause as the ultimate benefit would go the public. While it was agreed that they would require months to complete the exercise, however, they were advised to complete the job as early as possible.

33. Dr. Katoch, Chairperson, IDC, then thanked everybody, including the organizations, for their participation and useful contributions. Dr. Kuldeep Tiwari, on behalf of the organizations, thanked the Chairperson, the committee members and others for their useful advice.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from Shri D.R. Meena, Deputy Secretary, DHR, to the Chair and all the participants.

Annex-I

'List of participants' in the Fifth Meeting of the 'Inter-Departmental Committee For Identifying Viable New Systems of Medicine / Therapy' (IDC), held as a 'virtual meeting' on 11.01.2021 at 3.00 P.M., to consider proposal for recognition of Electrohomoeopathy as a system of medicine.

Inter-Departmental Committee

S. No.	Name & Designation	Office
1.	Dr. V.M. Katoch, former Secretary, Department of Health Research-cum-Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research	In the Chair
2.	Dr. Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice-Chairman	University Grants Commission
3.	Dr. Darshan Shankar, Vice-Chancellor	TransDisciplinaryUniversity, Bengaluru.
4.	Dr. Y.K. Gupta, HoD (Pharmacology) (<i>Retd.</i>)	AIIMS, New Delhi.
5.	Smt. Vandana Jain, Joint Secretary (IFD).	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. (<i>In place of Dr. D.S. Gangwar, AS&FA - Special Invitee</i>)
6.	Dr. L. Swasthicharan, Addl. DDG.	Directorate General of Health Services.
7.	Dr. Pradeep Khasnobis, CMO (NFSG).	Directorate General of Health Services.
8.	Dr. Rajni Kaul, Scientist 'G'.	ICMR.
9.	Shri T.K. Malik, Deputy Legal Adviser.	Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice.
10.	Dr. Debprasad Chattopadhyay, Director.	National Institute of Traditional Medicine, ICMR (<i>As a Special Invitee</i>)
11.	Dr. Rajeshwari Singh, Research Officer	NITI Aayog
12.	Dr. Anand Kumar Sharma	Government of Rajasthan.

	Additional Director (Ayurveda).	
13.	Vaid Kuldip Raj Kohli, Director (AYUSH)	Government of Maharashtra.
14.	Dr. Sumant Khardenavis, Medical Officer	AYUSH Directorate, Maharashtra.
15.	Dr. Birender Sharma, Deputy Director (Homoeopathy).	Directorate of Ayush, Government of NCT of Delhi.
16.	Prof. (Dr.) Rajat Chattopadhyay, Principal.	Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, representing the Government of West Bengal.
17.	Dr. Rachna Paliwal, Assistant Adviser (Health)	Ministry of AYUSH
18.	Dr. K. Bangarurajan, Technical Consultant	Office of DCGI

Annex-II

List of participants from the 'Electrohomoeopathy Organizations' in the Fifth Meeting of the 'Inter-Departmental Committee For Identifying Viable New Systems of Medicine / Therapy' (IDC), held as a 'virtual meeting' on 11.01.2021 at 3.00 PM, to consider proposal for recognition of Electrohomoeopathy as a system of medicine.

S.No.	Name	Organization
1.	Dr. Kuldip Tiwari	NEHM of India, New Delhi.
2.	Dr. N.K. Awasthi	NEHM of India, New Delhi.
3.	Dr. A. P. Maurya	CCEHSM, West Bengal.
4.	Dr. Ajit Singh	ERDO, Punjab.
5.	Dr. Satish Jagdale	ERDO, Maharashtra.
6.	Dr. Kapil Singh Thakur	IEHRSC, New Delhi.
7.	Dr. K.A. Bakshi	CEHSMR&DI, Andhra Pradesh.
8.	Dr. S.K. Golam Masud	-
9.	Dr. Abdulrazzaque Abdulhameed Qureshi	160, Gruwarpeth, Solapur, Maharashtra, PIN: 413002.