



File No. 7(116)/2015-NR/DM-1
01st October, 2015

Dear Dr. A. K. Mishra,

Department of Health Research has been funding many innovative research projects, many of which have been published and in some cases, prototypes have been built and some were even launched by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare. You would be aware that some of the research projects are of immense value to public health programs. However, I am given to understand that many of these innovations do not reach the market despite the Central Government owning the patents in many cases.

2. Given the high Out of Pocket expenditure on healthcare, low cost point of care technologies is a focus area. In order to give impetus to availability of low cost of health technologies, particularly those that have been invented with funding support of Government of India, I would like to suggest the following, if such recourse has not already been taken by your department:

- (i) For medical technologies funded in last five years, research institutions that have been recipient of research grants may be asked to provide for a technology transfer agreement with government PSU/industry within a specified time period. An Inter-Departmental Committee with experts from the field of health technology may be created to oversee this process within respective government departments.
- (ii) Future funding of health technology research may be made subject to a mandatory technology transfer agreement that is inbuilt in the research proposal and funding criteria.
- (iii) For technologies whose patents are held by DHR, a Patent Transfer Auction Program (P-TAP) may be hosted that would enable transfer of manufacturing rights to Indian manufacturers, who would be required to start production of technologies within a specified time period.

3. These initiatives would not only spur access to low cost health technologies and lead to high social returns on government investment on research but would also boost the 'Make in India' initiative.

I look forward to your views at an early date.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(B.P. Sharma)

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
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Secretary, Deptt. of Health Research
IRCS Building, 1, Red Cross Road, New Delhi.

Date: 5-10-15

27/10/15

To (Admin. II)
Directors, ICMR inshhides
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