

NIPER RESEARCH FUNDS SCAM EXCEEDING RS.100 CRORES

- HOW NIPER CHEATED ITS OWN STUDENTS AND FACULTY

Recently, widespread protests and strike by students took place at the prestigious National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali on termination of ‘whistleblower’ teachers, Dr.Parikshit Bansal and Dr.Neeraj Kumar. Dr.Nilanjan Roy, another highly reputed faculty, was removed from NIPER a few months ago. These ‘three musketeers’ had raised their voice against large scale bungling of research funds at NIPER, running into several crores of rupees. The funds were for improving research facilities for students of higher specializations e.g Post-graduation and Ph.D and carrying out cutting edge research for developing new medicines for cancer, diabetes, tuberculosis etc. Instead approximately Rs.100 crores of funds were bungled and spent on unapproved objectives and ‘construction projects’ whose cost was highly inflated e.g. NIPER sought and was granted additional approval of more than Rs.8.64 crores for a new auditorium, whose initially proposed budget was only Rs.5.5 crores. Where that entire money went is a mystery, because NO NEW AUDITORIUM HAS BEEN BUILT AT NIPER AT ALL!

An institute of ‘excellence’ under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, presently headed by Union Minister, Sh.Srikant Jena, NIPER was allocated Rs. 156.89 crores under the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012) for executing various projects FUNDED IN NATIONAL INTEREST BY THE TAX PAYERS MONEY. Out of this, **Rs.95 crores was released for 22 ongoing schemes** and **Rs.61.89 crores for 19 new schemes** as per details given below:

Scheme Code	Name	5-Yr. Plan Budget (2007-12) Rs. Lacs	Remarks/Team Leader/Principal Investigator
Ongoing Schemes (also called ‘continuing schemes’ and have code letter ‘C’)			
C-01	Teaching Program	300	Not listed in final presentation.No progress/achievements presented.
C-02	System Biology	380	Not listed in final presentation. Was under Dr.Nilanjan Roy, who was dismissed from service in 2012. No progress/achievements presented.
C-03	In vitro/alternative method of screening	475	Dr.K.B.Tikoo

C-04	Diabetic Complications	550	Dr.S.S.Sharma
C-05	Pharma Parasitology/ Virology/Infection Lab	913	Dr.P.P.Singh
C-06	Lead Molecules for TB, Malaria and Leishmania	515	Dr.A.K.Chakraborti
C-07	Pharma Grid	1106	Dr.P.V.Bharatam
C-08	Pharmacoinformatics	325	Dr.P.V.Bharatam
C-09	Chiral Drugs/ Bio-Chemo Enzymatic Transformation	178	Dr.U.C.Banerjee
C-10	Pharmacy Heritage	145	Not listed in final presentation. No progress/ achievements presented.
C-11	Nano Technology and Drug Delivery System	525	Dr.Neeraj Kumar
C-12	Business Development Group	175	Not listed in final presentation. No progress/ achievements presented.
C-13	Reference Standard Development	200	Dr.Saranjit Singh
C-14	Advanced Centre for Traditional Medicine	639	Dr.S. Jachak
C-15	Impurity Profiling and Stability Testing Facility	102	Dr.Saranjit Singh
C-16	Standardization of Herbal Products	223	Dr.I.P.Singh
C-17	Pharmacological and Toxicological Screening	148	Dr.S.S.Sharma
C-18	National Bio-availability Centre	257	Not listed in final presentation. No progress/achievements presented.
C-19	Technology Development Centre	569	-do-
C-20	Library/Electronic Journals	550	-do-
C-21	CIL (Central Instruments Laboratory)	750	-do-
C-22	Project Manpower Expenditure	475	-do-
	Total (A)		Rs. 9500 lacs or Rs. 95 crores
New Schemes (Designated by the code 'N')			
N-01	Boys Hostel	500	Construction completed
N-02	Swimming Pool	125	Construction completed, but no approach road/parking constructed. Cost escalated.
N-03	Shopping Centre	005	Construction completed
N-04	Community Centre	045	Construction complete, but hardly used.
N-05	Auditorium	550	Not constructed at all. Rs.8.64 additional money was proposed and approved by mid-term review committee 24-4- 2010
N-06	Extension of National Bioavailability Centre	044	Partial construction

N-07	Health Centre	057	No visible construction.
N-08	Type II-V Houses	455	Some construction took place.
N-09	Provision of additional bridge/gate	286	Only bridge made. No additional gate made.
N-10	Earth Filling and Landscaping	128	No work done. Objection by mid-term committee.
N-11	Furniture and air-conditioning	400	No auditorium made. Not known where this money has gone.
N-12	Herbal Preservation Set-up	085	Not listed in final presentation. No progress/achievements presented.
N-13	Setting up of a dosage forms pilot plant	541	Construction undergoing and plant not yet functional.
N-14	New Specialization in Pharma Management (R&D mgmt.)	160	Dr.Anand Sharma. No fund released for initial 4 years and Dr.Sharma not informed of existence of project. Rs.10 lacs released in last year. No new specialization introduced, though course started using existing staff, for which no additional expense was incurred.
N-15	Research in Pharmacovigilance and Pharmaco-economics	250	Not listed in final presentation. No progress/achievements presented.
N-16	Clinical Research Training	250	Dr.Pramil Tiwari
N-17	Setting up of Department of Intellectual Property Rights	225	Dr.Parikshit Bansal. No department established till date. All objectives of the project failed due to bungling of funds. More than 50% of outlay was for hiring technical manpower. Not a single person recruited!
N-18	Drugs for neglected diseases	1583	Dr.K.P.R.Kartha
N-19	Cerebral Ischemia/MRI	500	Not listed in final presentation. No progress/achievements presented.
	Total (B)	6189	
	Grand Total (A+ B) Continuing Schemes: Rs.95crores New Schemes- Rs.61.89 crores	15689	Total outlay of 11 th Five Year Plan was Rs. 156.89 crores over five year period (2007-12)

Presentation of final progress report of all 11th Five Year Plan Projects takes place-

2012: After completion of the 5 year plan in 2012, final presentations of ‘progress’ by the project leaders, were held on **18th April, 2012** at NIPER. Vide email dated **3rd April, 2012** from the Dean, NIPER to all faculty members, it was informed that presentations of final reports of all 11th Five Year Plan Projects were scheduled for 18th April, 2012. The names of various faculty members were indicated against the schemes by the Dean. When the emails were sent, a strange thing happened- faculty members started running away, stating that they were never a part of the scheme against which their name was being indicated and their name should be removed! Two faculty members –Dr.Shankar Guichait (Medicinal Chemistry) and Dr.Sanjay Jachak (Natural Products) wrote in their emails that the 11th Five Year Plan Schemes against which their name was written, was wrong as they were never associated with the schemes. They requested for removal of their names from the schemes! Presentations were just an eye-wash as evident from the data below.

Progress of ongoing and new schemes having total outlay of Rs.73.07 crore (Rs.30.86 + Rs.42.21 crores), was not presented at all.

In final presentations, progress of only 14 schemes having outlay of Rs. 64.14 crores was presented and progress of remaining schemes having outlay of Rs.30.86 crores was not presented. Similarly, in case of new schemes, progress of only 3 schemes (outlay of Rs.19.68 crores) out of 19 was presented and progress of remaining schemes having outlay of Rs.42.21 crores was not presented at all.

Misappropriation of 11th Five Year Plan Funds at NIPER is likely to exceed Rs.100 crores:

Before and during presentation of final reports of the projects on 18th April, 2012, Dr.Parikshit Bansal interacted with a number of faculty members and several shocking facts came to light:

- i. **Faculty members/Researchers were not informed of project approval or budget available under their projects:** Most of the researchers were not aware of final approved objectives/budget of their research projects under the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12), because the NIPER Directors during this period, Dr. Rama Rao and Dr.K.K.Bhutani had not provided them with a copy of the final approved 11th Five Year Plan document. This document contained details of the approved objectives and the budget approved for specific research activities.
- ii. **In several projects, money had either not been released at all (100% misappropriation) or just 40-50% of the amount received from Ministry was**

released to the researchers while balance was misappropriated: Details of some research and infrastructure projects where heavy misappropriation took place, are given below:

Scheme Number	Name	Outlay/ Misappropriation
N-05	New Auditorium	Rs.5.50 crores; 100% misapp. <u>No such auditorium constructed at all.</u> However, expense of Rs.4.22 crores shown in mid-term review report, which is surprising. Further, NIPER asked for 'additional Rs.8.64 crores to complete the project, which the 'mid-term review committee' approved, without asking how so much wrong calculation occurred and from where the money will come from?
N-10	Earth filling and Landscaping	Rs.1.28 crores; 100% misapp. <u>No work done,</u> as per mid-term review report dated 24/4/2010.
N-11	Furniture and Air-conditioning	Rs.4.00 crores; >90% misapp. <u>No auditorium constructed at all.</u> As per information available, furniture and AC was for new auditorium, which has not been constructed. However expense of Rs.1.81 crores has been shown in mid-term review report dated 24/4/2010. Though committee raised serious objections and wrote that <i>expenditure of Rs.181 lacs incurred during last three years on furniture/air-conditioning of new additional structures which are yet to be completed, needs to be looked into, nothing happened. No inquiry was conducted, no responsibility fixed.</i>
N-14	New Specialization in Pharmaceutical Management	Rs.1.60 crores; >90% misapp. <u>No such specialization introduced at all.</u> 2 new courses introduced in 2010 using existing staff only. Rs.10 lacs released to management department in 2012 (5 th Year).
N-15	Research in Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacoeconomics	Rs.2.50 crores; >75% misapprop. <u>No progress reported at all.</u> <i>Project not included in final list of presentations.</i>
N-17	Setting up of Department of	Rs.2.25 crores; >90% misapp. <u>No department established at all.</u>

	Intellectual Property Rights at NIPER	Though about Rs.1.5 crores was for hiring and training of manpower, NOT A SINGLE technical person hired. Entire amount misappropriated. Serious shortcoming listed in final report by Project Leader, Dr.Parikshit Bansal
N-19	Cerebral Ischemia/MRI	Rs.5.00 crores; 100% misappr. <u>No work done at all</u> , as per mid-term review dated 24/4/2010. <i>Project not included in final list of presentations.</i>
C-05	Pharma Parasitology/ Virology/ Infection Lab	Rs.9.13 crores; >50% misappr. <u>Less funds released.</u>
C-07	Pharma Grid	Rs. 11.06 crores; > 60% misappr. Person who proposed the project not informed of final approved project, nor given any funds during initial 3 years.
C-11	Nano Technology and Drug Delivery System	Rs.5.25 crores; >40% misappr. <u>Serious shortcomings listed in the final report by Dr.Neeraj Kumar, whose services were terminated recently.</u>
C-12	Establishment of Business Development Group at NIPER	Rs.1.75 crores; >75% misappr. <u>No such group established.</u> No final presentation of output under the project made. <i>Project not included in final list of presentations.</i>
C-13	Reference Standard Development	Rs.2.00 crores; >50% misappr. <u>Not a single reference standard available for industry after project completion.</u> Rs.2 crore was taken from the Govt. for making reference standards,
C-15	Impurity profiling and stability testing facility	Rs.1.02 crores;>90% misappr. <u>No such facility established.</u> No work done, as per mid-term review dated 24/4/2010.

Details of the schemes for which final report was presented, are given below:

S. No.	Name of the scheme/Code	Presentation by	Scheme Code/Outlay
Continuing Schemes (Final report of only 14 out of 22 presented)			
1.	Pharma grid	Dr P.V. Bharatam	C-07 Rs.11.06 crores
2.	Pharmaco-informatics	Dr P.V. Bharatam	C-08 Rs.03.25 crores
3.	Pharma Parasitology/ virology/ Infection laboratory	Dr P.P. Singh	C-05 Rs.09.13 crores

4.	Nanotechnology & drug delivery systems	Dr Neeraj Kumar	C-11 Rs.05.25 crores
5.	In-vitro/Alternative method of screening	Dr K.B. Tikoo	C-03 Rs.04.75 crores
6.	Advanced centre for traditional medicines	Dr Sanjay M. Jachak	C-14 Rs.06.39 crores
7.	Standardization of herbal products	Dr I.P. Singh	C-16 Rs.02.23 crores
8.	Diabetes complications	Dr S.S. Sharma	C-04 Rs.05.50 crores
9.	Pharmacological and Toxicological Screening Facilities	Dr S.S. Sharma	C-17 Rs.01.48 crores
10.	Lead molecules for TB, Malaria and Leishmania	Dr A.K. Chakraborti	C-06 Rs.05.15 crores
11.	Chiral drugs/ bio-chemo enzymatic-transformation	Dr U.C. Banerjee	C-09 Rs.01.78 crores
12.	Reference standard development	Dr Saranjit Singh	C-13 Rs.02.00 crores
13.	Impurity profiling facility	Dr Saranjit Singh	C-15 Rs.01.02 crores
14.	Clinical research Training	Dr Pramil Tiwari	C-06 Rs.05.15 crores
		Total	Rs. 64.14 crores
New Schemes (Final report of only 3 out of 19 presented)			
15.	Drugs for most neglected diseases	Dr K.P.R. Kartha	N-18 Rs.15.83 crores
16.	New specialization in Pharm. Management	Dr Anand Sharma	N-14 Rs.01.60 crores
17.	Intellectual Property Right	Dr P.Bansal	N-17 Rs.02.25 crores
		Total	Rs. 19.68 crores
		Total	Rs.83.82 crores

Approximately 70% of the funds released to NIPER, Mohali were bungled i.e. 70% of Rs.156 crores or 109 crores approximately. The funds meant for research, were spent on ‘non-performing’ assets such as buildings, whose cost was highly inflated after project approval e.g. NIPER initially proposed only Rs.5.5 crores for a new auditorium. After spending Rs.4.22 crores, it demanded an additional Rs. 8.64 crores, which was quickly approved by the mid-term review committee on 24-4-2010. Detailed investigation can reveal actual amounts and who benefitted. **(Proof enclosed-Scanned Report of mid-term review committee, duly signed by all members and with objections on record)- Annexure-1.**

Complaints during presentations fall on deaf ears: During presentations, Dr.Parikshit Bansal and Dr.Neeraj complained to Dr.Padmanaban, (the eminent external expert who was chairing the presentations) that funds were not released for the projects, due to which several objectives of the projects failed. Dr.Padmanaban instead of taking strong action, expressed his ‘helpness’ in the matter by saying ‘I am not an audit person’.

Complaints suppressed by ‘manipulating minutes of the meeting’: The complaints made by Dr.Parikshit Bansal and Dr.Neeraj Kumar relating to bungling of funds, were not reflected in the minutes, because the ‘final minutes’ were manipulated by Dr.U.C.Banerjee, present Dean. Protests of both faculty are on record in form of emails which they sent to Dr.Banerjee, as below:

Email of Dr.Parikshit Bansal dated 27th June, 2012 is reproduced below:

*On Wed, Jun 27, 2012 at 12:28 PM,
pbansal <pbansal@niper.ac.in> wrote:*

The Dean, NIPER, Mohali

cc.

- 1. Registrar NIPER, Mohali with request to exercise powers as Ex-officio Secretary of the Board of Governors of NIPER and ensure that the correct minutes are recorded and again communicated to me for confirmation, keeping in view seriousness of the matter.*
- 2. Dr.V.M.Katoch, Chairman, BOG for information and necessary action, keeping in view seriousness of the matter.*

Sir,

I am shocked to see the completely false and misleading recording of minutes relating to presentation of my 11th Five Year Plan project entitled "Establishment of Intellectual Property Rights Department at NIPER", before the APDC committee members on 18th April, 2012. The minutes communicated to me vide your note dated June, 25 are reproduced below:

*Dr.Parikshit Bansal,
IPR Cell, NIPER*

Please refer to the agenda items of the 14th APDC meeting held on 18th and 19th April, 2012. The matter was discussed in the meeting and the committee decided the following

14.3 To review the presentations by faculty members on the progress of research projects funded under the 11th Five Year Plan.

The faculty members, according to the 11th Five Year Plan schemes funded by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, presented the completion reports. The comments on your presentation is as follows:

Name of Scheme: Intellectual Property Right (Name wrongly mentioned. Correct name of scheme is "Establishment of IPR Department at NIPER.")

Presentation by : Dr.Parikshit Bansal

General Remarks by the Committee:

Dr.Bansal discussed the problem of funding and other related personal problems, instead of discussing the achievements during the 11th Five Year Plan period. No specific comments were given by the Committee.

The above minutes are completely false and misleading. I discussed no personal problems at all. A professional committee is not the forum where I would be sharing personal problems. I strictly discussed the matter related to my project. I had informed the committee that:

- For 1st three years of the scheme, I was not informed of approval of the scheme and NO FUNDS WERE RELEASED TO ME.
- Funds were misappropriated.
- Though more than Rs.1 crore was for hiring and training of manpower, not a single technical person was hired.
- Though Rs.2.25 crores was taken by NIPER to establish "Department of Intellectual Property Rights" no such department has been established. This was a serious 'Breach of Trust' by NIPER administration.

Accordingly, I have returned the copy you sent to me with my comments and inked signatures. Same is duly attached with this email for ready reference. Sir, it is my humble request, that the minutes be recorded truthfully, so that the real problem for failure of objectives

comes out. I have time and again indicated, that when funds are not released to the Principal Investigators, when faculty are not informed that their projects have been approved, not informed or provided the final approved document which contain the budget and approved objectives, how are we expected to deliver? In my project, all objectives of the project AS APPROVED have failed- not because of lack of funds or manpower but because of misappropriation. Several of the 11th Five Year Plan Projects have failed for the same reason.

NIPER faculty is not incapable- but we cannot work if we are not given funds and approvals of projects not communicated to us. I am marking a copy of this email to all faculty for their information and with the hope that the correct minutes will be recorded for all projects.

Dr.Parikshit Bansal

Email of Dr.Neeraj Kumar dated 27th June, 2012 is reproduced below:

On Wed, Jun 27, 2012 at 12:51 PM, NEERAJ KUMAR <neeraj@niper.ac.in> wrote:

To,

Chairman (Professor G. Padamnabham), APDC, NIPER-S.A.S. Nagar-160062.

Through:

1. Dean, NIPER SAS NAGAR (Who has sent the minutes of APDC).
2. Registrar, NIPER-SAS Nagar (Custodian of record, duties of Registrar as per "NIPER statutes clause 14, table-II, c & h respectively)
3. Director, NIPER-SAS Nagar.

CC: All faculty of NIPER (For information)

Subject: Review presentation of 14th APDC meeting regarding 11th five years plan and general remarks by the committee

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of the minutes 14th APDC meeting regarding “Nanotechnology and Drug Delivery project (C-11)” through Dean, NIPER dated 25.06.12 as under:

“The Committee noted the research work carried out under the project. Dr. Kumar discussed the problem of funding and other related personal problems instead of discussing the achievements during the 11th Five Year Plan period. Committee desired that Dr. Kumar should try to focus on his assignments and work with the industry for some fruitful results. Dr. Arvind Bansal and Dr. Sanyog Jain were also called in the meeting. The Committee inquired about the significant advantage of the project to the Industry to which Dr. Jain informed about the ongoing collaboration with Zydus Cadilla. The Committee did not approve of the Personalized comments given by Dr. Neeraj Kumar and asked him to concentrate on the scientific work.”

I as a faculty of NIPER feel that the recording of the minutes are not proper and is to undermine the work done by honest faculty. I have properly mentioned the misappropriation of the 11th five year plan money by NIPER administration which is on record through the report submitted by me. It is also on record that we as faculty of NIPER put our sincere efforts to comply our duties irrespective to the misappropriation of the fund. In the report, Dean has mentioned about the personalized comments by Dr. Neeraj Kumar which is totally uncalled for at the part of Dean/committee’s remark.

*As a reminder, I am also attaching the presentation given in the committee for your record. **It is pertinent to mention the RTI reply (RTI & Response along with GFR is attached) from the planning commission regarding the 11th five years plan which clearly state that NIPER administration has to follow the GFR rule***

in allocating/distribution of plan money which was not followed in this project along with several other project.

With my above explanation, it is very clear that NIPER administration has tried to hide their misconduct in allocation of money and thus these minutes were recorded. You are requested to direct NIPER administration to correct the minutes so that scientific out should be recorded along with the misappropriation of plan money by NIPER administration. Hard ink signed copy of the same in being sent through 1) Dean, NIPER; à 2) Registrar, NIPER, à 3) Director, NIPER à TO YOU.

Sincerely,

Neeraj Kumar, PhD

Department of Pharmaceutics,

NIPER SAS Nagar-160062.

Attached:

- 1. Dean's report on the Project C-11 through APDC meeting*
- 2. 11th Five year presentation submitted to APDC*
- 3. RTI and response of planning commission on 11th Plan money of NIPER*
- 4. A copy of GFR-2005 to ascertain the facts mentioned in RTI response by planning commission.*

Gross Violation of General Financial Rules (GFR) of Govt. of India, took place at NIPER, Mohali without any 'fear' of punishment, since no one dared to speak out at the large scale bungling because everyone wanted to keep his job safe. All three faculty who spoke out viz. Dr.Nilanjan Roy, Dr.Neeraj Kumar and Dr.Parikshit Bansal have been thrown out and lost their jobs.

GFR rule 64 clearly lays the responsibility for financial management of the funds released, with the Secretary of the Concerned Ministry/Department who is the CHIEF ACCOUNTING OFFICER and is reproduced below:

“Rule 64: Duties and responsibilities of the Chief Accounting Authority:

The Secretary of a Ministry/Department who is the Chief Accounting Authority of the Ministry/Department shall:

- i. Be responsible and accountable for financial management of his ministry or department.***
- ii. Ensure that the public funds appropriated to the Ministry for department are used for the purpose for which they were meant.***
- iii. Be responsible for the effective, efficient, economical and transparent use of the resources of the Ministry or Department in achieving the stated project objectives of that Ministry or Department, whilst complying with performance standards.***
- iv. Appear before the Committee on Public Accounts and any other Parliamentary Committee for examination.***
- (v) review and monitor regularly the performance of the programmes and projects assigned to his Ministry to determine whether stated objectives are achieved.***
- (vi) be responsible for preparation of expenditure and other statements relating to his Ministry or Department as required by regulations, guidelines or directives issued by Ministry of Finance.***
- (vii) shall ensure that his Ministry or Department maintains full and proper records of financial transactions and adopts systems and procedures that will at all times afford internal controls.***
- (viii) shall ensure that his Ministry or Department follows the Government procurement procedure for execution of works, as well as for procurement of services and supplies, and implements it in a fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective manner;***
- (ix) shall take effective and appropriate steps to ensure his***

Ministry or Department : -

- (a) collects all moneys due to the Government and*
- (b) avoids unauthorized, irregular and wasteful expenditure*

In present case, the Secretaries in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers who were responsible for monitoring the utilization of 11th Five Year Plan Funds (2007-12) were **Mr.Ashok Kumar, IAS and Mr.Mukul Joshi, IAS**. Both were aware of the complaints made by Dr.Parikshit Bansal, in 2009 (to CVC and then to CVO, Mr.Arun Jha, IAS in the **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**) and 2011 (Mr. Mukul Joshi) regarding large scale misappropriation of 11th Five Year Plan Funds, in NIPER, Mohali but in a **SERIOUS BREACH OF PUBLIC TRUST, took no action.**

Thus, hard-earned tax payers money and money meant for students/faculty of NIPER was ‘bungled’ on large scale at NIPER with collusion of Secretaries of the Concerned Ministry i.e. Mr. Ashok Kumar, IAS and Mr.Mukul Joshi, IAS in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. **There are 6 other NIPERs viz. at Hajipur, Rai Bareilli, Hyderabad, Calcutta, Lucknow and Gauhati and same officers were also involved in release of 11th Five Year Plan funds to them also. In one of the meetings, it was proposed that an allocation of Rs.200 crores be made for each NIPER, under 11th Five Year Plan. Subsequently, Rs.156 crores was approved for NIPER, Mohali but for other institutes, allocation was higher. In such event, misappropriation is likely to cross Rs.1000 crores.**

There has been a serious ‘BREACH OF TRUST’ by powerful and highly placed officials viz. IAS officers at rank of Secretary, who misused and abused their positions in collusion with willing academicians i.e. the Directors of NIPER, to misappropriate research funds. The Corrupt Secretaries seriously breached the ‘autonomy’ of NIPER, Mohali and the 6 new NIPERs by withholding important notifications relating to abolition of contracts at Mohali and also approving independent Board of Governors for each institute. Weakened administratively, such institutes had no individuals who could stand up and raise their voice against the corrupt practices of the Ministry Officials. **In NIPER, Mohali alone, an acting director, Prof. K.K.Bhutani has remained in place for more than 3 and half years, despite serious formal complaints of corruption and also several cases in the High Court filed by the victimized faculty members, Dr.Roy, Dr.Neeraj and Dr.Bansal,against him.**

Modus Operandi Used by NIPER Directors to Cheat Faculty and Students of Hard-earned Research Funds of 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12)

1. Scientists and faculty are asked to write projects as per their expertise
2. Once projects are written, names of individuals are removed and 'pooled' proposal submitted by NIPER Director to Ministry.
3. Ministry submits 'pooled proposal' to Planning Commission. After approval of projects, objectives and budget by Planning Commission, funds are released to Ministry.
4. Ministry releases the funds to NIPER, with expectation that NIPER director will disburse the funds to faculty on 'project basis' so that objectives of projects funded in national interests, are met.
5. **NIPER Director hides the approval of approved budget for various research projects under 5-Year Plan, from his faculty. Does not inform them which projects are approved, how much money has been received and what are the objectives of the projects. Keeps them completely in the DARK.**
6. If any faculty asks, Director informs that Ministry never sends money individually for each projects, but sends a 'lumpsum' amount to Director who is free to give any amount as per his wishes, to any project and spend it as he feels best. This is completely false and misleading, because Ministry sends money STRICTLY PROJECT WISE AND SAME IS DULY MENTIONED IN THE RELEASE LETTER TO NIPER ALSO.
7. NIPER Director deliberately inflates the costs of construction projects and money meant for research projects for students/faculty is spent on 'non-performing assets'
8. No review of progress of projects is held.
9. Final presentations are made at end of five year plan i.e. 2012. Protests of faculty members who complain are not documented and minutes are changed. Thus, there is no record that 'projects' failed or that money vanished.
10. Other faculty members remain silent and helpless, fearing for their jobs because of the contract system. **3 faculty members who speak out are thrown out of jobs.**
11. Despite all complaints of bungling, NIPER, Mohali gets approx.. Rs.256 crores under 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017). **AGAIN SAME CYCLE IS REPEATED-**

DIRECTOR COMPLETELY HIDES FROM THE FACULTY WHICH PROJECTS ARE APPROVED, WHAT ARE THEIR OBJECTIVES AND HOW MUCH IS THE BUDGET?

12. Dr.Parikshit Bansal writes strongly to Director, Registrar, NIPER and also to Secretary in the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Sh.D.S.Kalha, IAS. Vide emails dated 24-1-2013 and subsequent reminders. Finally Dr.Bhutani, Officiating **Director informs that Rs.255 crores has been approved by Ministry against demand of Rs. 654 crores.** Again, NIPER faculty is not informed which projects are approved, what are the objectives and who will be carrying out the work?

Same story of 'looting' of the hard-earned tax payers money is being repeated in the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017) as happened in the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012). **Emails below are self-explanatory and may be taken as 'proof on record'.**

The money coming to NIPER for the students is the hard-earned money of their parents- it must reach the students. Academia are the TEMPLES OF LEARNING. They must be kept free from corruption.

Proofs attached:

1. Copy of mid-term review committee report dated 24-4-2013 duly signed by all members, showing allocation of Rs.156.89 crores to NIPER, Mohali under 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12)
2. Copy of complaint made by Dr.Parikshit Bansal to Dr.V.M.Katoch, Chairman, NIPER, Board of Governors, on 18-7-2011
3. Copy of document obtained under RTI by Dr.Nilanjan Roy showing that money is NEVER released to NIPER in pooled manner by Ministry, but is ALWAYS released project wise, contrary to what director is claiming and telling all faculty.
4. Copy of scans of projects approved under 12th Plan (2012-17), as communicated by Director, NIPER to his faculty in March, 2013. No money released during 2012-13.
5. Emails from Dr.Parikshit Bansal relating to 12th Five Year Plan are given below on next page

From: Dr. Parikshit Bansal <pbansal@niper.ac.in>

Date: Fri, Mar 8, 2013 at 7:31 PM

Subject: Serious concerns regarding utilization of funds for 12th Five Year Plan Schemes at NIPER , Mohali

To: kalha.ds@nic.in

Cc: registrar@niper.ac.in, director@niper.ac.in, ssingh@niper.ac.in, ucbanerjee@niper.ac.in, akchakraborti@niper.ac.in, rkartha@niper.ac.in, ppsingh@niper.ac.in, pvbharatam@niper.ac.in, msingh@niper.ac.in, ptiwari@niper.ac.in, anandsharma@niper.ac.in, rahuljain@niper.ac.in, tikoo@niper.ac.in, sssharma@niper.ac.in, sanjayjachak@niper.ac.in, akbansal@niper.ac.in, ipsingh@niper.ac.in, prabhagarg@niper.ac.in, neeraj@niper.ac.in, sunilgupta@niper.ac.in, gbjena@niper.ac.in, mesophia@niper.ac.in, ipsita@niper.ac.in, vnair@niper.ac.in, apande@niper.ac.in, anil@niper.ac.in, anil_angrish@yahoo.co.in, skguchhait@niper.ac.in, sanyogjain@niper.ac.in, chaaya@niper.ac.in, sushmasingh@niper.ac.in, sushmasingh76@rediffmail.com, abhays@niper.ac.in, dipikabansal@niper.ac.in, ssuresh@niper.ac.in, naresh@niper.ac.in, jlaha@niper.ac.in, asbhatia@niper.ac.in, pbansal.niper@gmail.com, Navkiran Singh <navkiran@singhlawyers.com>

8-3-2013

Mr.D.S.Kalha

The Secretary,

Department of Pharmaceuticals

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

Subject: Serious concerns regarding utilization of funds for 12th Five Year Plan Schemes at NIPER , Mohali

Dear Mr.Kalha,

With reference to my email dated 28-2-2013 to you with a copy to Director, NIPER, a reply was received from the Director office vide email to all faculty on 6-3-2013 (attached) regarding 12th Five Year Plan Approval.

As a deeply concerned citizen and tax-payer, I wish to place the following facts on record and share my concerns with you, in larger public interest:

1. Dr.Bhutani is referring to a letter from the planning commission dated 19-2-2013 received at NIPER on 4-3-2013 (after 2weeks?), in which Planning Commission has accepted 12th Five Year Plan proposals of NIPER for Rs.255 crores (Rs.150 crores for continuing schemes and Rs.105 crores for new schemes).
2. What are the proposals which have been approved by planning commission, has not been disclosed officially to the faculty till date. Faculty has also not been informed the project outlay of each approved scheme and the objectives. These raises serious questions on how PROGRESS AND PROPER UTILIZATION FUNDS will take place under the 12th Five Year Plan if faculties are not informed.
3. **As per information provided by Dr.K.K.Bhutani, the planning commission has approved Rs.255 crores against a demand of Rs.654 crores.** As faculty of NIPER, we have no idea at all how this 'demand' of Rs.654 crores got created. When we were submitting our proposals, we were just asked to submit the technical objectives and not the budget in review committee chaired by Dr. NK Ganguli. All faculties are experts in their respective fields and have fair enough idea regarding the budget of the schemes proposed by them. How can anyone else 'create' a budget for highly technical projects? However, a budget of Rs.654 crores got submitted without the knowledge or involvement of the subject experts at all, which is a cause of serious concern.
4. Against a demand of Rs.654 crores, if NIPER has been allotted only Rs.255 crores, it raises a serious question mark on the METHOD OF BUDGETING and also on completion of the proposed objectives of the projects. Sir, I am sure you will agree that if I ask a budget of Rs.10 lacs to buy a bus for field survey and I get Rs.2.5 lacs, I cannot buy 'quarter of a bus'. I either need the full amount or no amount.
5. If Rs.255 crores is the approved amount for FIVE YEARS and one FULL YEAR HAS GONE AS A BLANK YEAR without release of any money it puts a question mark on the completion of projects for which the proposed time was FIVE YEARS. Critical objectives of projects will be compromised owing to lapse of one full year.
6. Ministry as a part of its constitutional responsibility of being a 'trustee of public funds', needs to put a robust mechanism in place to monitor the proper utilization of funds at NIPER. Rs.255 crores is a huge sum of money, for which ministry has to ensure proper utilization as per GFR rules for the proposed objectives of the projects.
7. There is an urgent and pressing need to appoint a 12TH PLAN 'PROJECT MONITORING OFFICER' (PMO)at NIPER for duration of 12th Five Year Plan, who can monitor the disbursement of funds to faculty under each project and ensure that the money is disbursed to the faculty/scientists/researchers on time, so that project objectives are not compromised and funds are not misappropriated.
8. The entire plan of Rs.255 crores should not be in the hands of just one 'ad-hoc' consultant, Dr.Naresh Kumar because the plan has to be executed by NIPER faculty and not by the consultant. Director must trust his own faculty and take them into confidence by freely circulating the approved 12th Five Year Plan document to all faculty with budget and objectives. To ensure success of the

schemes, and also proper and timely utilization of funds, we must know how much money we have to spend, in how much time and for what purpose?

It is unacceptable that NIPER is seeking and getting money based on the proposals submitted by its faculty, but not sharing objectives or the budget of the proposals with the faculty. Keeping in view the large scale misappropriation of funds in 11th Five Year Plan for which Hon'ble High Court has also issued notices to CBI, CVC, Ministry and others, I seek your utmost co-operation as Secretary, DOP as above for 12th Five Year Plan.

A copy of this email is being marked to all faculty for information and also to Mr.Navkiran Singh, my advocate in the case pertaining to large scale misappropriation of funds under 11th Five Year Plan (CWP-14537 of 2012), to bring it on record of the court as relevant record in the matter.

Sincerely,

Dr.Parikshit Bansal

From: Dr. Parikshit Bansal [mailto:pbansal@niper.ac.in]

Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2013 3:51 PM

To: 'kalha.ds@nic.in'

Cc: 'REGISTRAR, NIPER, S.A.S. NAGAR'; 'Director'; 'ssingh@niper.ac.in'; 'ucbanerjee@niper.ac.in'; 'akchakraborti@niper.ac.in'; 'rkartha@niper.ac.in'; 'ppsingh@niper.ac.in'; 'pvbharatam@niper.ac.in'; 'msingh@niper.ac.in'; 'ptiwari@niper.ac.in'; 'anandsharma@niper.ac.in'; 'rahuljain@niper.ac.in'; 'tikoo@niper.ac.in'; 'sssharma@niper.ac.in'; 'sanjayjachak@niper.ac.in'; 'akbansal@niper.ac.in'; 'ipsingh@niper.ac.in'; 'prabhagarg@niper.ac.in'; 'neeraj@niper.ac.in'; 'sunilgupta@niper.ac.in'; 'gbjena@niper.ac.in'; 'mesophia@niper.ac.in'; 'ipsita@niper.ac.in'; 'vnair@niper.ac.in'; 'apande@niper.ac.in'; 'anil@niper.ac.in'; 'anil_angrish@yahoo.co.in'; 'skguchhait@niper.ac.in'; 'sanyogjain@niper.ac.in'; 'chaaya@niper.ac.in'; 'sushmasingh@niper.ac.in'; 'sushmasingh76@rediffmail.com'; 'abhays@niper.ac.in'; 'dipikabansal@niper.ac.in'; 'ssuresh@niper.ac.in'; 'naresh@niper.ac.in'; 'jlaha@niper.ac.in'; 'asbhatia@niper.ac.in'; 'anil@niper.ac.in'; 'pbansal.niper@gmail.com'

Subject: Regarding status of 12th Five Year Plan Schemes

28-2-2013

Mr.D.S.Kalha

The Secretary,

Department of Pharmaceuticals

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

Subject: Regarding Status of the 12th Five Year Plan Schemes for NIPER, Mohali

Dear Mr.Kalha,

With reference to email below from Registrar, NIPER dated 26-2-2013, I have been informed that that 12th Five Year Plan of the Institute was submitted in early December 2012 to the Ministry for onward submission to the Planning Commission and that response of the Ministry / Planning Commission is still awaited.

Kindly inform:

1. Whether 12th Five Year Plan for NIPER, Mohali is yet to be approved?
2. What is the proposed outlay of the 12th Five Year Plan submitted by NIPER, Mohali to the Ministry? Is it Rs.1400 crores?
3. What are the various projects submitted by NIPER to Ministry and what is the proposed outlay of each project?
4. Whether the Ministry is aware that information relating to various projects of the FIVE YEAR PLANS is not being provided by the NIPER administration to its faculty, due to which proper utilization of funds does not take place and objectives of several projects fail?

It is pertinent to place on record that under Directions of the Director, NIPER, the faculty are asked to write research projects and propose outlays for the projects which are then submitted to Ministry and subsequently to the Planning Commission.

After approval of the planning commission, funds are released to Ministry. Ministry then releases them to Institute and Institute Director is supposed to disburse funds to each faculty, so that progress of the schemes takes place, in larger national interest.

Unfortunately, though as faculty and subject experts in our relevant areas, we propose projects, we are not informed of the schemes approved under the FIVE YEAR PLANS. This problem occurred in 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012) and is now occurring again in 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017). I am sure you will intervene and work out a solution in larger public interest.

In 11th Five Year Plan, I proposed a scheme for establishment of Department of Intellectual Property Rights at NIPER, Mohali which was duly approved by Planning Commission/Ministry with a project outlay of Rs.2.25 crores. However, for three years, I was not informed by the Director, NIPER (DR.P.Ramarao) that the scheme had been approved and funds also released to the Institute. No Department was established at all and all objectives of a project funded in larger national interest failed. Similar story was also repeated in research projects of several other faculty, who were not informed of approval of their projects, the objectives and also the budget outlay.

Now the same story is being repeated for the 12th Five Year Plan. Though full one year has gone, we are yet to be informed which projects have been submitted to the Ministry, what is their outlay,

what are the objectives and what is expected from us? When projects fail due to lack of timely information relating to the targets, the entire blame falls on us and we get a bad name for 'non-performance'.

Sir, please provide me the requested information at the earliest and acknowledge receipt of the email. Copy of this email is being submitted to my advocate as part of the relevant material on record, pertaining to large scale misappropriation of funds of the 11th Five year Plan, for which I have duly moved the Hon'ble High Court vide CWP-14537 of 2012 and for notices have been issued to the CBI, CVC and also to the Ministry. It is in larger public interest that the similar story of misappropriation of funds as occurred in 11th Five Year Plan, is not repeated in 12th Five Year Plan and for this I seek your utmost co-operation.

With personal regards and best wishes,

Dr.Parikshit Bansal

Department of Pharmaceutical Management

cc.

1. Director, NIPER
2. Registrar, NIPER
3. All NIPER faculty, the matter being of larger public interest and concerning all faculty
4. Mr.Navkiran Singh, Advocate

From: REGISTRAR, NIPER, S.A.S. NAGAR [mailto:registrar@niper.ac.in]

Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 3:10 PM

To: 'Dr. Parikshit Bansal'

Cc: director@niper.ac.in; dean@niper.ac.in; kkbhutani@niper.ac.in; ssingh@niper.ac.in; ucbanerjee@niper.ac.in; akchakraborti@niper.ac.in; rkartha@niper.ac.in; ppsingh@niper.ac.in; pvbharatam@niper.ac.in; msingh@niper.ac.in; ptiwari@niper.ac.in; anandsharma@niper.ac.in; rahuljain@niper.ac.in; tikoo@niper.ac.in; sssharma@niper.ac.in; sanjayjachak@niper.ac.in; akbansal@niper.ac.in; ipsingh@niper.ac.in; prabhagarg@niper.ac.in; neeraj@niper.ac.in; sunilgupta@niper.ac.in; gbjena@niper.ac.in; mesophia@niper.ac.in; ipsita@niper.ac.in; vnair@niper.ac.in; apande@niper.ac.in; anil@niper.ac.in; anil_angrish@yahoo.co.in; skguchhait@niper.ac.in; sanyogjain@niper.ac.in; chaaya@niper.ac.in; sushmasingh@niper.ac.in; sushmasingh76@rediffmail.com; abhays@niper.ac.in; dipikabansal@niper.ac.in; ssuresh@niper.ac.in; naresh@niper.ac.in; jlaha@niper.ac.in; asbhatia@niper.ac.in; anil@niper.ac.in

Subject: FW: Reminder 1- Regarding status of 12th Five Year Plan Schemes

Dear Dr. Bansal,

Information, as obtained from Dr. Naresh Kumar, Consultant, who is co-ordinating the 12th Five Year Plan of the Institute, is that 12th Five Year Plan of the Institute was submitted in early December 2012 to the Ministry for onward submission to the Planning Commission. The response of the Ministry / Planning Commission is awaited.

Sincerely

[Wing Cdr PJP Singh Waraich (Retd.)]

Registrar

From: Dr. Parikshit Bansal [mailto:pbansal@niper.ac.in]

Sent: 13 February 2013 12:26

To: 'REGISTRAR, NIPER, S.A.S. NAGAR'

Cc: director@niper.ac.in; dean@niper.ac.in; kkbhutani@niper.ac.in; ssingh@niper.ac.in; ucbanerjee@niper.ac.in; akchakraborti@niper.ac.in; rkartha@niper.ac.in; ppsingh@niper.ac.in; pvbharatam@niper.ac.in; msingh@niper.ac.in; ptiwari@niper.ac.in; anandsharma@niper.ac.in; rahuljain@niper.ac.in; tikoo@niper.ac.in; sssharma@niper.ac.in; sanjayjachak@niper.ac.in; akbansal@niper.ac.in; ipsingh@niper.ac.in; prabhagarg@niper.ac.in; neeraj@niper.ac.in; sunilgupta@niper.ac.in; gbjena@niper.ac.in; mesophia@niper.ac.in; ipsita@niper.ac.in; vnair@niper.ac.in; apande@niper.ac.in; anil@niper.ac.in; anil_angrish@yahoo.co.in; skguchhait@niper.ac.in; sanyogjain@niper.ac.in; chaaya@niper.ac.in; sushmasingh@niper.ac.in; sushmasingh76@rediffmail.com; abhays@niper.ac.in; dipikabansal@niper.ac.in; ssuresh@niper.ac.in; jyotip@niper.ac.in; naresh@niper.ac.in; jlaha@niper.ac.in; asbhatia@niper.ac.in; anil@niper.ac.in; 'Dr. Parikshit Bansal'

Subject: Reminder 1- Regarding status of 12th Five Year Plan Schemes

Reminder-1

Dear Mr.Registrar,

In continuation of my email below dated 24.1.2013, I wish to place on record that you have neither acknowledged nor responded to my email. No information has been communicated to me as faculty regarding what projects have been approved under the 12th Five Year Plan, what is the outlay of the projects and what is expected from me and other faculty members.

Sincerely,

Dr.Parikshit Bansal

From: Dr. Parikshit Bansal [mailto:pbansal@niper.ac.in]

Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 3:07 PM

To: 'REGISTRAR, NIPER, S.A.S. NAGAR'; 'director@niper.ac.in'; 'dean@niper.ac.in'; 'kkbhutani@niper.ac.in'; 'ssingh@niper.ac.in'; 'ucbanerjee@niper.ac.in'; 'akchakraborti@niper.ac.in'; 'rkartha@niper.ac.in'; 'ppsingh@niper.ac.in'; 'pvbharatam@niper.ac.in'; 'msingh@niper.ac.in'; 'ptiwari@niper.ac.in'; 'anandsharma@niper.ac.in'; 'rahuljain@niper.ac.in'; 'tikoo@niper.ac.in'; 'ssharma@niper.ac.in'; 'sanjayjachak@niper.ac.in'; 'akbansal@niper.ac.in'; 'ipsingh@niper.ac.in'; 'prabhagarg@niper.ac.in'; 'neeraj@niper.ac.in'; 'sunilgupta@niper.ac.in'; 'gbjena@niper.ac.in'; 'mesophia@niper.ac.in'; 'ipsita@niper.ac.in'; 'vnair@niper.ac.in'; 'apande@niper.ac.in'; 'anil@niper.ac.in'; 'anil_angrish@yahoo.co.in'; 'skguchhait@niper.ac.in'; 'sanyogjain@niper.ac.in'; 'chaaya@niper.ac.in'; 'sushmasingh@niper.ac.in'; 'sushmasingh76@rediffmail.com'; 'abhays@niper.ac.in'; 'dipikabansal@niper.ac.in'; 'ssuresh@niper.ac.in'; 'jyotip@niper.ac.in'; 'naresh@niper.ac.in'; 'jlaha@niper.ac.in'; 'asbhatia@niper.ac.in'; 'anil@niper.ac.in'

Subject: Regarding status of 12th Five Year Plan Schemes

Kind attention:

The Registrar, NIPER

Subject: Status of 12th Five Year Plan Schemes at NIPER, Mohali

Dear Mr.Registrar,

As a NIPER faculty member, I may be informed of the status of the 12th Five Year Plan Schemes which have been sanctioned to NIPER, including new and ongoing schemes and the amounts sanctioned under each scheme for the current financial year i.e. 2012-2013.

The entire year has gone and only 2 months of the financial year 2012-13 are remaining. In absence of any information relating to the schemes, whether pertaining to new construction or new projects, it is very difficult for the faculty/NIPER staff to achieve the envisaged objectives under the schemes. This creates a last minute rush to spend funds and most objectives remain unachieved, bringing a bad name to the faculty in whose names the projects have been sanctioned.

Kindly recall that in the last 5 year plan i.e. 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012), several faculty were not informed of the approval of the schemes, leading to failure of objectives and large scale misappropriation of the funds running into several crores. Matter is now pending before the Hon'ble High Court vide CWP 14537 of 2012 with notices issued to concerned authorities including the CBI and CVC for appropriate action in the matter.

Hopefully, you will provide timely information about the continuing and ongoing schemes under 12th Five Year Plan to all faculty with budget outlays and objectives so that we can meet the

objectives and ensure timely utilization of funds. In absence of information from your end, the present email will be submitted to the High Court to form part of the Court Record as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Dr.Parikshit Bansal

Pharmaceutical Management

cc. All faculty for information

Parikshit Bansal, Ph.D.(Biochemistry) LLB

Intellectual Property Rights Cell

Department of Pharmaceutical Management

National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), SAS Nagar

Punjab (INDIA)