

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

As on 17/8/2010

Recommendations of Punjab Governance Reforms Commission

SN	Recommendation	View of Department	What is to be done	Present Status
1	REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS			
1.1	Notifier - At present Village Chowkidar notifies birth and death to the Local Registrar. The Commission has suggested that ASHA Workers should be declared as notifier.	Good suggestion. State Government would implement it.	The notification under section 10(1)(iii) to be issued declaring the ASHA Workers as notifiers in addition to Village Chowkidar.	All these issues (1.1, 1.2, 1.3) were linked to Cabinet approval. CMM in its meeting held on 11/8/2010 has approved the proposal of department and accordingly a notification would be issued in a day or so.
1.2	Local Registrar - Originally SHO was the Local Registrar but w.e.f. 01/01/2004 Panchayat Secretary was declared as Local Registrar within the jurisdiction of village Gram Panchayat. The Commission has suggested that ANM may be declared as Local Registrar.	Very good suggestion. State Government would implement it.	Notification under section 7(1) is to be issued declaring ANMs as Local Registrars. Would require cabinet approval.	CMM in a meeting held on 11/8/2010 has approved the proposal of Health department for declaring ANM as Local Registrar. Notification would be issued in a day or so.
1.3	Delayed registration - within one year - At present the Local Registrar with the permission of District Registrar and after receipt of an affidavit and late fees can register birth & death beyond 30 days but within one year. The Commission has suggested that ANM (new Local Registrar) should be authorized to make registrations after taking the approval from the Senior Medical Officer of PHC (in place of District Registrar who is Civil Surgeon).	Very good suggestion. State Government would implement it.	Under Section 6 of the Registration of Birth & Death Act, the State Government can declare Senior Medical Officers as Additional District Registrars and thereafter the District Registrars can delegate these powers of giving approval for delayed registration to these SMOs / (Additional District Registrars.)	Notification is ready and will be issued alongwith notification under 1.2 above.

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1.4	Delayed registration - after one year - At present the District Registrar (Civil Surgeon) can register such birth & deaths after obtaining an order from the SDM. The Commission has suggested that for registration within 10 years, there is little possibility of misuse and therefore for such cases the process adopted for registration within one year should be adopted.	Good suggestion but the case false within purview of Central Government.	Under Section 13(3) prescribe the procedure. Central Government is competent to amend this Section. We will move the case but it may be difficult to get the Act amended.	The department has sent a proposal to Government of India for amending Section 13 of the Registration of Births & Deaths Rules, 2004 Act. It is learnt that as against the period of 10 years suggested by PGRC, GoI is contemplating simplifying the delayed registration upto 6 years on the lines of delayed registration within one year. We are pursuing this case with Government of India.
1.5	Entry of names in time barred cases - At present, the name of the child can be entered by Local Registrar within one year and by the District Registrar after one year but before 15 years with late fees. The Commission has suggested that the entry of names should be permitted without any limitation.	The suggestion is an order but section 14 prescribes a time limit and the State Government is free to fix the time limit.	In rule 10, the State Government has fixed the time limit of 15 years. This has been done on the basis of Model Rules circulated by the Government of India, but State Government is empowered to amend the rules. State Government would allow entry of names with late fees upto the year 2020 and thereafter 15 years limitation would come into effect. The rules can be amended with the approval of Centre Government and therefore the case will have to be moved to the Government of India.	The department has written to Government of India for allowing amendment in Rule 10 of the Punjab Registration of Births & Deaths Rules, 2004. The proposal of the department is to remove 15 years limitation under the existing rules as suggested by PGRC.
1.6	Digitization of record - The commission has suggested 3 points-			
(i)	Digitization should be delinked from the e-governance project.	The suggestion regarding delinking is an order and has been accepted by the department.	To design a software and recruit the people.	The registration of 2009 data pertaining to rural areas began around 15th June 2010 in all the 20 districts. This work would be completed by November, 2010.
(ii)	Suwidha Centres be authorized to digitize the records.	The suggestion has not been accepted at present. To begin with the department of Health & Family Welfare would digitize the record.	To outsource the work of digitization of previous records.	Outsourcing of digitization work for previous years- Six bids have been received and the parties are being short-listed and the work would be allotted by 30/9/2010.

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(iii)	To declare the incharge of Suwidha Centres as Additional Registrar for the purpose of maintenance of digitized record and issuance of copies.	The suggestion has not been accepted by the department for the time being. At present the Health department authorities would continue to be District Registrars / Additional District Registrars. Once the record is digitized, this recommendation would be examined.	-	-
1.7	Fees - The Commission has suggested that no fees should be charged upto one year and the notional liability should be carried by the State Government	At present, the following fees are charged upto one year. Delayed registration upto 30 days - Rs. 2/- by Local Registrar; Delayed registration upto one year with the permission of District Registrar- late fees of Rs. 5/-; Delayed entry of name within one year - Rs. 5/- Search for single entry in the office of Local Registrar-Rs. 2/- Giving a copy of birth & death by Local Registrar - Rs. 5/- The suggestion can be accepted.	Rules have to be amended for which State Government is competent but with the approval of Government of India.	Case for rationalization of fees is under process.
2	EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM			
2.1	The department should place a network of ambulances and a central control facility in place.	We have already initiated the exercise.	Party has been finalized after tender process and case sent to FD for approval. FM has already approved.	The work was to be allotted by 31/7/2010 but the case has been badly delayed and it is pending with the Finance Department for relaxation of the conditions imposed by them.