

## 2. Major Audit Findings

- I. *The revenue expenditure of Health Directorate of Railway Board constituted only 2.68 per cent of ordinary working expenses of IR. (Para 2.2)*
- II. *Capital expenditure was only four per cent of total medical expenditure during 2008-13. There was idle investment of ₹17.64 crore due to improper planning in developing Nursing College and Hostel at Majherhat/ER. (Para 2.3)*
- III. *Shortage of doctors and paramedical staff resulted in idling of medical equipments and increased dependence on hired medical practitioners/specialists with no accountability imposed on them. Despite spending ₹80.23 crore towards engagement of contract medical practitioners/specialists, expenditure of ₹1146 Crore incurred towards treatment in non-railway hospital during 2008-13 could not be avoided. ( Para 3.1.1 - 3.1.4)*
- IV. *Deficiencies in the registration of vendors for supply of medicines were observed in seven Zonal Railways. Centralized Procurement was delayed due to delay in finalization of tenders, delay in issue of purchase orders and delayed supply by the firms which contributed to the significant increase (66 per cent) in local purchase of medicines. Local purchase of medicines exceeded the permissible limit of 15 per cent of the total budget allotment across Zonal Railways. In IR, there is no uniform list of Proprietary Article Certificate (PAC) items. Medicines procured under PAC category at higher rates on Single Tender basis resulted in loss of ₹ 30 lakh. (Para 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3)*
- V. *There was lack of proper storage facilities in many hospitals across Zonal Railways. In Central Railway, medicines costing ₹0.75 crore were destroyed by fire in AC drug store room due to defective air conditioner and improper storage of combustible x-ray films. No periodicity for departmental stock verification was prescribed in the Indian Railways Medical Manual. As a result, stock verification was not conducted in eight Zonal Railways and in four Production Unit hospitals. (Para 4.2 and 4.3)*

- VI. *The existing inventory management system was not adequate to minimise arising of surplus medicines. In five Zonal Railways, Shelf life of medicines worth ₹ 24.18 lakh expired and could not be utilized. Medicines valued ₹ 7.57 lakh were also declared surplus in two Zonal Railways. (Para 4.1.2 and 4.4)*
- VII. *Out of eight Zonal Railways where substandard drugs were supplied, in four Zonal Railways drugs were consumed before receipt of the test results. (Para 4.5)*
- VIII. *There was a delay in procurement of medical equipments costing ₹ 40.69 crore. 56 medical equipments procured at a cost of ₹ 20.73 crore in nine ZRs and in two Production Unit hospitals were either not in working condition or commissioned belatedly. One medical equipment procured by a hospital in WR at a cost of ₹ 62 lakhs remained unutilised for 28 months out of 60 months of its codal life. ( Para 4.6)*
- IX. *Health Directorate in the Railway Board failed in developing Hospital Management Information System in the last two decades even after spending ₹ 66 lakh. This had resulted in poor documentation in regard to beneficiary data, Medical Identity Cards and maintenance of Medical History Folders. (Para 5.1 and 5.2)*
- X. *Lack of adequate medical facilities in railway hospitals resulted in referral expenditure of ₹ 1145.98 crore during 2008-13 for treatment of 2.96 lakh patients in non-railway hospitals. (Para 5.3)*
- XI. *Authorization for management and handling of bio medical wastes was not obtained by 27 selected hospitals/Health Units over five ZRs during 2008-10. Bio-medical wastes were improperly disposed of either by deep burial or burning in the open air. (Para 5.7)*
- XII. *Telemedicine facilities were not available in seven Zonal Railways and four production unit hospitals. Telemedicine facilities provided in four Zonal Railways (NEFR, SECR, SR and WR) were either not in working condition or remained unutilised. (Para 5.9.4)*