

**Minutes of 18th Meeting of Finance Committee of NISE
held on 11.11.2024 at Atal Akshya Urja Bhawan, MNRE, New Delhi.**

The 18th Meeting of the Finance Committee (FC) of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) was held at 14:30 hrs on 11.11.2024 in Atal Akshya Urja Bhawan, MNRE, New Delhi-110003 under the Chairmanship of Shri Padam Lal Negi, Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser, MNRE, New Delhi.

With the permission of the Chair, the item-wise Agenda was taken up for deliberation.

Item No. FC 18.01 (Leave of absence)

There is no leave of absence granted as all members attended the meeting (Annexure-I)

Item No. FC 18.02 (Confirmation of Minutes of 17th Finance Committee meeting)

The minutes of meeting of the 17th Finance Committee held on 27.08.2024 were confirmed.

Item No. FC 18.03 - Action taken report on the decision taken in the 17th FC meeting.

FC 15.06:-

[a] Fund Received from IREDA – For creation of World Renewable Energy Museum and for creation of IREDA-NISE Award for Solar Energy;

[b] NISE received funds from IREDA for creation of corpus for instituting the IREDA-NISE award for solar energy.

As directed in 14th GC & 16th FC, NISE has sent a letter with request to modify the purpose of utilization of fund.

FC comments: FC noted the issue and directed to expedite the same in consultation with IREDA. The progress made to be reported in the next FC and GC meetings.

17.05: Recruitment of Regular Manpower in NISE on account of significant increase in the technical & R&D activities:

As directed, NISE has placed a suitable agenda in its 15th GC meeting held on 27.09.2024 and GC accorded its approval.

FC comments: FC noted the action and FC also directed NISE to expedite in filling up the vacant position of sanctioned manpower.

17.06: Engagement of manpower for scientific and research activities of NISE on short term contract basis:

As directed, NISE has placed a suitable agenda in its 15th GC meeting held on 27.09.2024 and GC discussed the requirement of manpower in detail and accorded its approval for:

a) Engagement of 04 Subject matter experts on grade pay basis in the pay levels of 10, 11 or 12 of 7th CPC (as per suitability of the candidates for the position)



b) Engagement of 09 RA/ Post – Doctoral fellows on short term contact basis as per the applicable DST norms.

FC comments: FC noted the action.

17.07: Engagement of technical manpower on short term contract basis for Revenue Generation activities:

The matter was placed for information in 15th GC meeting held on 27.09.2024 and GC noted the matter.

FC comments: FC noted the action.

17.08: Implementation of Gratuity, Leave Encashment Scheme, and compensation policy for staff of NISE:

As directed, NISE has placed a suitable agenda in its 15th GC meeting held on 27.09.2024 and GC accorded its approval for implementation of Gratuity and Leave Encashment scheme in NISE.

FC comments: FC noted the action.

17.10: Hiring of residential accommodation for DG, NISE

As directed, NISE has placed a suitable agenda in its 15th GC meeting held on 27.09.2024 and GC accorded its approval for hiring of residential accommodation for DG NISE.

FC comments: FC noted the action.

New Agenda Items

Item No: FC 18.04: Approval of Annual Accounts for the F.Y. 2023-24

The annual accounts for the FY 2023-24 have been audited and finalized by statutory auditor i.e. M/s Rohit KC Jain & Co. The FC is requested to approve the audited accounts for the FY 2023-24 and thereafter the same to be placed before the next GC meeting for approval.

FC reviewed the audited accounts for FY 2023-24, as prepared by the statutory auditor M/s Rohit KC Jain & Co. The accounts were thoroughly discussed, including the auditor's observations and findings. The recommendation of FC is as follows:

Discussion on Utilisation and Unspent Balances of Project Grants:

The FC examined the utilisation and unspent balance of project grants. It was noted that NISE utilised Rs. 10.52 Crore from the total project grant of Rs. 17.29 Crore, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 9.09 Crore as of 31.03.2024. The breakup of unspent balance is as follows:

- Suryamitra Project: Rs. 5.37 Crore
- Hydrogen Project: Rs. 0.96 Crore
- World Renewable Energy Museum: Rs. 2.67 Crore, Others: Rs.0.09

Auditors Observation:

Advances to CPWD Rs. 7.35 Crore: The auditor observed that an advance of Rs. 7.35 Crore had been given to CPWD for capital expenditure, which remains outstanding as of 31.03.2024.

The FC directed that NISE should expedite coordination with CPWD to obtain the utilisation certificate for completed works and facilitate the settlement of outstanding advances. The FC also advised that future advances to CPWD be given only after verifying the current status and utilisation of the existing advances.

Advances Given under Suryamitra Program:

Chief Executive Odisha Renewable Energy (OREDA): FC noted that an advance of Rs. 4,17,600/- was given by NISE to the Chief Executive of Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) on 01.05.2018. Although the program was conducted by OREDA through a training partner, the Utilisation Certificate (UC) and Statement of Expenditure (SOE) submitted to NISE have not been endorsed by OREDA.

The FC directed NISE to verify the forwarding documents from OREDA and expedite the settlement of the outstanding advance with OREDA.

Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation (RREC): The FC observed that an advance of Rs. 6,42,000/- was given by NISE to Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation for a training program, which was not conducted. Despite multiple reminders from NISE for the refund of Rs. 6,42,000/-, along with interest, there has been no response from RREC.

The FC directed NISE to initiate legal action to recover the outstanding advance from Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation.

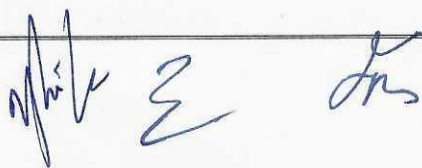
Advance to C-DAC: The FC noted that an advance of Rs. 2.07 Crore was provided to C-DAC. C-DAC has reviewed the matter with its legal and quality departments and is in the process of initiating a sole arbitration to resolve the related issues.

FC noted that issue is pending before 2020-21 and is being reflected in Auditors' annual report and there is a CAG para on the subject. FC, therefore, directed that PD MNRE looking after NISE should prioritize this matter and form a committee for early settlement of the issue.

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): The FC observed that the closing balance of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) stands at Rs. 6,63,930 as on 31.3.2024. This amount includes EMDs from both existing vendors and unsuccessful vendors.

The FC directed that the EMDs of unsuccessful vendors, as well as vendors who do not have an existing contract, should be refunded as per provisions contained in GFRs 2017.

Decision: With the above directions and observations, the Finance Committee approved the audited accounts for FY 2023-24 and directed to place the same before upcoming GC for information.



Item No: FC 18.05: Revised Estimate 2024-25 and Budget Estimate 2025-26.

Approval of Finance Committee's is solicited for the Revised Estimate (RE) of Rs. 25.55 crore for the FY 2024-25 and the Budget Estimate (BE) of Rs. 28.40 crore for FY 2025-26, as depicted below:

Budget Head	RE 2024-25 (Rs in Cr.)	BE 2025-26 (Rs. in Cr.)
GIA- General	7.00	7.00
GIA- Salary	5.50	6.00
GCCA - Capital (Lab & Others) - Residential Quarters	13.05	15.40
Total	25.55	28.40

Decision: The Proposed budget was discussed and approved in principle for RE 2024-25 for an amount of Rs. 25.55 Cr. and BE 2025-26 for an amount of Rs. 28.40 Cr. with certain modifications as per **Annexure-II**.

Item No: FC 18.06: Revised Revenue Budget 2024-25 and Revenue Budget 2025-26.

Revised Revenue Budget 2024-25 and Revenue Budget 2025-26 is submitted for consideration and approval of the Finance Committee.

Decision: The Revised Revenue Budget for the FY 2024-25 and Revenue Budget 2025-26 was discussed and in principle approved with certain modifications as per **Annexure-III**.

Item No: FC 18.07: Procurement of solar simulator for large size PV module with a budgetary estimation Rs. 8.99 Crores.

Approval of FC is solicited for approval of initiation of process of procurement of solar simulator for large size PV module with a budgetary estimation of Rs. 8.99 crores. It was noted that:

- This procurement was previously presented before the 15th Governing Council (GC) of NISE, which granted in-principle approval considering the necessity of the equipment. However, the GC recommended that the item be placed before the FC for further consideration.
- The item was also included in the annual procurement plan under the GIA-Capital head during the approval of the Budget Estimate (BE) for FY 2024-25, as discussed in the 16th FC meeting held on 22.03.2024.

Decision: In light of the necessity of the equipment, the Finance Committee approved the initiation of the procurement process for a solar simulator designed for large-size PV modules, with a budgetary estimate of Rs. 8.99 crore.

Item No: FC 18.08: Manpower for Central Nodal Agency/Treasury Single Accounts (CNA/TSA) Operations.

The Finance committee approved 01 position of Consultant (CNA) in its 12th meeting held on 22.11.2022 for the smooth operation of CNA module. It is to be noted that, based on quantum of work and role assigned to NISE as scheme implementing agency of "Funding of testing facilities, infrastructure and institutional support for development of standard and regulatory framework under the National green hydrogen mission", with an outlay of 200 crores more than 01 manpower under CNA/TSA is required.

Interviews were conducted for the various position of F&A Division including 01 approved post under CNA for purely based on short term contract basis. The committee found 02 suitable candidates for CNA activities and the same has been recommended by the selection committee. The Finance committee is requested to approve 01 additional Consultant for position of CNA/TSA, based on quantum of work and role assigned to NISE.

Decision: FC approved the manpower requirement and the remuneration to be met from the internal earnings of NISE.

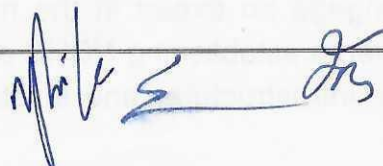
Item No: FC 18.09 Revision in Existing Medical Policy of NISE.

Approval of FC is solicited to approve the recommendation of EC for revision in existing medical policy of NISE. The recommendation of EC is as follows:

Regular Employees of NISE:

[A] IPD Medical Treatment: The IPD medical facilities will be available to all regular serving employees of NISE and their declared dependents. To cover IPD expenses, a medical insurance policy will be obtained from an insurance provider. Currently, **40% of the Basic Pay** is reimbursed to regular employees towards the IPD medical insurance policy. The EC has recommended that the reimbursement for IPD medical treatment may be increased to **40% of the Gross Salary (Basic Pay + DA)** to be applied toward the insurance premium.

[B] OPD Medical Treatment: The OPD medical facilities will be available to all regular serving employees of NISE and their declared dependents. Currently, reimbursement for OPD expenses is limited to **60% of the Basic Pay** of regular employees, based on CGHS rates. The EC has recommended the reimbursement for OPD medical expenses as per actual expenses. However, reimbursements will be capped at the remaining balance after the IPD reimbursement, up to the equivalent of **one month's Gross Salary (Basic Pay + DA)**.



[C] The employees who avails the medical facility of NISE shall be required for a monthly contribution as per CGHS rates.

Contractual Employees of NISE:

IPD Medical Treatment: At present there is no medical policy for the contractual employees of NISE. EC in its meeting recommended that the Contractual staff with a contract period of at least one year may be eligible for reimbursement of medical insurance coverage, up to a sum assured of Rs. 5,00,000/-. A monthly contribution of Rs. 300 will be deducted from their salary for this purpose.

Decision: FC discussed the proposal in detail for the revision of the existing medical policy for employees of NISE as follows inter-alia advising to bring the agenda in next GC for approval:

For Regular Employees: FC approved the recommendations of the Executive Committee (EC) regarding the revision of the medical policy for regular employees of NISE, as detailed in the proposal. *The OPD reimbursement shall be as per the CGHS rate.*

For Contractual Employees: The FC directed that NISE to form a committee to study medical facilities provided to contractual employees, in compliance with extant rules and regulations. The committee is to prepare a detailed proposal with justification to the FC for consideration in next FC.

Item No: FC 18.10: Any other item with the approval of the Chair.

Engagement of Manpower (Subject Matter Expert) on short term contract basis for Hydrogen related activities at NISE.

MNRE, on 8th October 2024, officially launched the National Centre for Hydrogen Safety (NCHS), at NISE which will act as the nodal agency in the country to provide support for implementing the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) through various initiatives including training/education, applied research, guiding body for codes & standards and outreach activities on hydrogen production, storage & transportation and handling. NCHS will be dedicated to promoting hydrogen safety and best practices by: (i) Supporting and promoting the safe handling and use of hydrogen across applications in the energy transition and (ii) Providing a common communication platform with a global scope to ensure safety information, guidance and expertise is available to all stakeholders.

NISE is also act as a Scheme Implementing Agency (SIA) for "Funding of testing facilities, infrastructure, and institutional support for development of Standards and Regulatory framework under the National Green Hydrogen Mission," under NGHM. The total budgetary outlay of the scheme is Rs. 200 Crores and as an SIA, NISE is eligible for 0.5% of the total budget outlay as administrative charges.

In view of the above, NISE proposes to engage an expert in the matter of Hydrogen Technology on short term contract basis towards establishing NCHS and implementation of scheme for "Funding of testing facilities, infrastructure, and institutional support for

development of Standards and Regulatory framework under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.”

The details of qualifications, experience, remuneration is given below:

Name of the Post	Qualifications	Consolidated Salary and Engagement period	Job Requirement
<p>Project Manager (01 Post)</p>	<p>(a) Essential Qualification:</p> <p>(i) Master's degree in Physics/Chemistry/Mechanical/Process/Instrumentation/Electrical or Bachelor's degree in Chemical/Mechanical/Process/Instrumentation/Electrical from a recognized University or Institute.</p> <p>(ii) Minimum Eight years' specialized experience after graduation</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Minimum Four years' specialized experience after post-graduation</p> <p>(iii) Area of Experience: Research and Development in R & D organizations / Industrial / Academic Institutions and / or Science and Technology Organizations / Private Sector Research in the field of Hydrogen /Oil & Gas/ Process Engineering or related field. The experience shall be of a specific nature relevant to the job requirements of the post.</p> <p>(b) Desirable Qualification:</p> <p>(i) Doctorate Degree in the relevant subject of Chemistry/ Material Science/ Mechanical Process/Instrumentation/Electrical or Master's Degree in Engineering / Technology in the discipline / subject to the job requirements.</p>	<p>Consolidated Salary:</p> <p>Rs. 1,20,000 /- for 1st year;</p> <p>Rs. 1,25,000 /- for 2nd year,</p> <p>Rs. 1,30,000 /- for 3rd year.</p> <p>Consolidated remuneration will be inclusive of all applicable taxes. No allowances such as Dearness allowance, house rent allowance, residential telephone, etc. is admissible.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support research and development activities related to green hydrogen production, Safety and fuel cell technologies. 2. Assist in the implementation of the Green Hydrogen Testing Scheme under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM). 3. Oversee the management and operation of green hydrogen production plants, ensuring efficient and safe operations. 4. Support the organization and execution of training programs and workshops related to green hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. 5. Participate in testing activities and the preparation of detailed test reports, ensuring accurate and comprehensive documentation. 6. Manage and analyse plant data to monitor performance, identify trends, and support ongoing research and development efforts. 7. Collaborate with stakeholders, including government agencies, research institutions, and industry partners. 8. Effectively communicate research findings and recommendations through

	<p>(ii) Experience in Coordination, Policy Planning, Project Development and implementation in the area of Green Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies at scientific / technical laboratories, institutes, industry, university /associations / private sector.</p> <p>Note: The period spent to acquire essential qualifications before joining an organization shall not be counted as field experience.</p> <p>Upper Age Limit: 45 Years</p>		<p>reports, publications, and presentations.</p>
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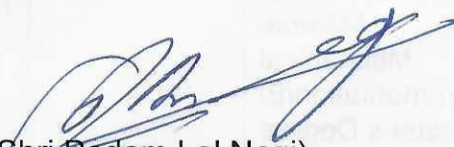
The remuneration for the manpower is proposed to be funded from the administrative charges receivable from the Testing scheme.

FC approval is sought for engaging the proposed manpower for Hydrogen division at NISE.

Decision: FC agreed on the requirement of subject matter expert in the field of Hydrogen Technology on short term contract basis towards establishing NCHS and implementation of scheme for “Funding of testing facilities, infrastructure, and institutional support for development of Standards and Regulatory framework under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.” and directed to place the agenda in next GC for its information.


 (Dr. Mohammad Rihan)
 Member


 (Shri Lalit Bohra)
 Member


 (Shri Padam Lal Negi)
 Chairman

The following members attended the meeting:

1.	Shri Padam Lal Negi, Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser, MNRE, New Delhi	Chairman
2.	Shri Lalit Bohra, Joint Secretary MNRE, New Delhi	Member
3.	Dr. Mohammad Rihan Director General National Institute of Solar Energy Gwal Pahari, Gurugram, Haryana	Member

Also attended by following officials of MNRE & NISE:

1.	Dr. Chandan Banerjee Dy. Director General, NISE
2.	Dr. Kuldeep Singh Rana Scientist-E, MNRE
3.	Shri Kailash Chand Deputy Secretary, IFD, MNRE
4.	Shri Samir Kumar Das Under Secretary, IFD, MNRE
5.	Smt. Geetha Raja Under Secretary, IFD, MNRE
6.	Smt. Seema Srivastava Under Secretary, NSM, MNRE
7.	Shri Deepak Khandelwal Assistant Director (Admin), NISE
8.	CA Ritesh Wahal Auditor

RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26

Grant in Aid General

Rs. In Lakhs

Budget Code	Particulars	BE 2024-25	RE 2024-25	Expenditure till 04.11.2024	Unspent Balance as on 04.11.2024	BE 2025-26
G-01	Electricity and Fuel Charges	55.00	55.00	32.85	22.15	40.00
	Total (A)	55.00	55.00	32.85	22.15	40.00
G-02	Vehicle Running and Maintenance					
	Hiring of Vehicle/BUS/Cab etc.					
	Vehicle Maintenance	20.00	22.00	13.47	8.53	25.00
	Insurance					
	Consumables (Fuel)					
	Total (B)	20.00	22.00	13.47	8.53	25.00
G-03	Manpower- Outsource/Contractual					
	Contractual Manpower - Consultants/Research Associates (RA)					
	Outsource Manpower					
	Data Entry Operator/ MTS	400.00	400.00	302.83	97.17	450.00
	EA/Librarian/EA/ Other Manpower					
	Housekeeping Manpower					
	Horticulture Manpower					
	Security Manpower					
	Total (C)	400.00	400.00	302.83	97.17	450.00
G-04	Telephone & Internet Lease Line Expenses	30.00	30.00	4.06	25.94	30.00
	Total (D)	30.00	30.00	4.06	25.94	30.00
G-05	Office Expenses					
	Building/Civil Maintenance					
	Machinery Maintenance (Lab/IT/Electrical)					
	IT Expenses (Minor Hardware and Software)					
	Office Expenses / Administration Expenses / Minor Equipments	130.00	135.00	80.62	54.38	80.00
	Electrical Consumables					
	Horticulture / Housekeeping Expenses					
	Office Exp Other					
	Sport Equipment					
	Consumables and Lab Expenses					
	Total (E)	130.00	135.00	80.62	54.38	80.00
G-06	Board & Committee Meetings					
	Honorarium	10.00	10.00	3.25	6.75	12.00
	Refreshment & Entertainment					
	Total (F)	10.00	10.00	3.25	6.75	12.00
G-07	Printing/Stationary/ Advertisement and Publishing					
	Printing/Stationary and Cartridge Riffling					
	Postage					
	Newsletter/Magazines/Books	12.00	20.00	14.06	5.94	15.00
	Annual Reports					
	Publicity/Advertisement					
	Total (G)	12.00	20.00	14.06	5.94	15.00

G-08	Legal & Professional Charges / Audit & Account expenses	10.00	12.00	8.02	3.98	13.00
	Total (H)	10.00	12.00	8.02	3.98	13.00
G-09	Seminar/Conference & Workshop Training Programme	3.00	10.00	4.31	5.69	20.00
	Total (I)	3.00	10.00	4.31	5.69	20.00
G-10	Domestic Travel/ Local Conveynce Foreign Travel	30.00	6.00	2.97	3.03	15.00
	Total (J)	30.00	6.00	2.97	3.03	15.00
	Total (A+B+C+D+E+F+G+H+I+J)	700.00	700.00	466.44	233.56	700.00

Grant in Aid Salary

Rs. In Lakhs

Budget Code	Particulars	BE 2024-25	RE 2024-25	Expenditure till 04.11.2024	Unspent Balance as on 04.11.2024	BE 2025-26
S-01	Salary Regular					
	Other Allowances	550.00	550.00	333.68	216.32	600.00
	Staff Training Program					
	Total	550.00	550.00	333.68	216.32	600.00

Grant in Aid Capital

Rs. In Lakhs

Budget Code	Particulars	BE 2024-25	RE 2024-25	Expenditure till 04.11.2024	Unspent Balance as on 04.11.2024	BE 2025-26
C-01	Building Infrastructure and Other Facilities					
	Consutruction/Renovation /Retrofitting in existing Labs/ Road/Buildings and Consutruction of Residential Staff Quarters	250.00	300.00	0	300.00	350.00
C-02	Procurement of Lab Machinerey/ Equipments and Instruments	1200.00	655.00	202.17	452.83	940.00
C-03	Office Equipments, Furniture and IT Facilities					
	Procurement of IT equipment and related software for data center, labs, office and NISE buildings	300.00	350.00	195.66	154.34	250.00
	Furniture for Conference Hall, Lecture Room, Lab etc.					
	Library / Books / Standards					
	Total	1750.00	1305.00	397.83	907.17	1540.00
Grand Total (General, Salary & Capital)		3000.00	2555.00	1197.95	1357.05	2840.00

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Revised Revenue Budget 2024-25 and Revenue Budget 2025-26					
(Rs. In Lakhs)					
Budget Code	Income	Budget Estimate 2024-25	Revised Budget Estimate 2024-25	Revenue Earned 2024-25 till 04.11.2024	Budget Estimate 2025-26
	Revenue				
	Lab Testing	100.00	50.00	6.03	500.00
	Training	100.00	100.00	28.31	100.00
	Consultancy	150.00	200.00	216.82	250.00
	Administrative Charges/Other Income (Guest House, All Projects & Others)				
	Administrative Charges				
	Suryamitra/Varunmitra/PM- Surya Ghar/Hydrogen SIA				
	DST Project	40.00	40.00	19.51	100.00
	ISA Fellowship Programme				
	ALMM	800.00	800.00	574.16	800.00
	Guest House and Others (Processing Fees/Recruitment Fees etc.)	10.00	10.00	6.35	15.00
Total		1200.00	1200.00	851.18	1765.00
	Expenditure	Budget Estimate 2024-25	Revised Budget Estimate 2024-25	Expenditure incurred till 04.11.2024	Budget Estimate 2025-26
R-01	Salary - Contractual/Outsource Manpower				
	Contractual Manpower - Consultants	220.00	220.00	34.96	350.00
	Outsource Manpower				
R-02	Electricity/Fuel Expenses				
	Telephone & Internet Expenses/ Regular staff				
	Telephone & Internet Expenses	0.00	5.00	2.74	10.00
	Printing / Stationary /Advertisement & Postage				
R-03	Hiring of Vehicle				
	Tour, Travel /(consultancy)/ Other				
	Honorarium	10.00	15.00	7.71	15.00
	Local Conveyance				
R-04	Consumable /Other Expenses of Lab / Workshop /CSC	20.00	20.00	6.06	30.00
R-05	Training / Meeting / Refreshment Expenses (NISE / ITEC)	20.00	20.00	3.19	20.00
R-06	Office Expenses (including Guest House, R&M expenses)				
	Legal/Accounts/Taxation	30.00	30.00	13.41	30.00
R-07	Medical Expenses (Regular Employees)	20.00	20.00	8.67	30.00
R-08	Expenditure under ALMM Tour	50.00	50.00	16.19	50.00
R-09	Recruitment Exps	30.00	30.00	0.96	30.00
R-10	Miscellaneous	10.00	10.00	3.43	10.00
Total Expenditure		410.00	420.00	97.32	575.00
Surplus		790.00	780.00	753.86	1190.00

Revenue Budget - Capital					
R-11	Procurement of Lab Machinery, IT Equipments and Consutruction/Renovation of buildings, Residential Quarters of NISE	0.00	500.00	0	500.00



