STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR SPONSORSHIP OF PH.D. PROGRAMME IN PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING / ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING UNDER PHE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

(Programme is Exclusively for In-Service Engineers)

I. General

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been implementing the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Training Programme since 1956 to strengthen the technical and managerial capabilities of professionals engaged in the planning, design, implementation, operation, and maintenance of water supply and sanitation infrastructure across the country. Over the years, the Programme has evolved beyond conventional training and has been restructured as the "PHE Sector Development Scheme", a Central Sector Scheme with a dedicated budget provision which has already been approved by the Ministry. The Scheme seeks to support capacity building, applied research, technology assessment and validation, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, and development of technical guidance documents in the areas of water supply, used water management, solid waste management, storm water drainage, and other emerging areas of Public Health Engineering.

The Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO), the technical wing of the Ministry, has been facilitating capacity building through Refresher Course, Short Term Course, Post Graduate (M.Tech./M.E.) programmes, R & D in applied research etc. in Public Health/Environmental Engineering, and allied disciplines. In view of the increasing complexity of urban infrastructure challenges, rapid technological advancements, climate change concerns, resource constraints, and the need for evidence-based planning and decision-making, there is a growing requirement for advanced research and innovation in the Environmental /Public Health Engineering sector. Accordingly, the Ministry has proposed to introduce sponsorship for Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programmes with effect from 1 July 2026 for eligible in-service professionals.

II. Objective

The objectives of the Ph.D. Sponsorship Programme are to:

a) Promote high quality research in Public Health/Environmental Engineering, and allied sectors to address emerging challenges and national priorities.

b) Support the development and validation of innovative and indigenous technologies for water supply, used water treatment & faecal sludge management, recycle & reuse, solid

waste management, storm water drainage, and other emerging areas of Public Health Engineering.

c) Develop a cadre of highly skilled professionals and researchers capable of providing technical leadership in the planning, implementation, operation, and management of resilient water and sanitation systems.

d) Strengthen evidence-based policymaking and regulatory frameworks through scientific research and knowledge generation.

e) Enhance service delivery and sustainability in the water and sanitation sector through actionable research outcomes.

III. Application & Selection Process for sponsored Ph.D. Programme

Ph.D. programme shall be sponsored (Full/Part time) for In-service Engineers and para-engineering staff working in Central Government Department, State Government Department, Union Territory Administration, Urban Local Body, Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Utility, or any other organization engaged in the Environmental / Public Health Engineering sector. The sponsorship under the Scheme shall be limited to a maximum of five candidates per academic year.

The applications for sponsorship under the Ph.D. Programme shall be invited online through the Ministry's website during the month of April each year. All applications received within the prescribed timeframe shall be scrutinized and evaluated by a Selection Committee constituted by the Ministry. The Selection Committee shall be chaired by the Joint Secretary, CPHEEO, and shall comprise the following members,

Sl. No.	Name and Organization	Designation
1	Joint Secretary, CPHEEO	Chairperson
2	Adviser (PHEE), CPHEEO, MoHUA	Member
3	Representative from IFD, MoHUA	Member
4	Representative from empanelled Academic Institution	Member
5	Sh Vipin Patel, Deputy Adviser (PHE), CPHEEO	Member Secretary
6	Smt Chaitra Devoor, Assistant Adviser (PHE), MoHUA	Member Co-ordinator

IV. Thrust areas of research

The proposed area of research shall be relevant/ sector based/ nationally important/globally significant/create value to the society or in cutting edge areas or contribute to new/additional knowledge in the areas of Public Health/Environmental Engineering including water supply, used water management, fecal sludge & septage management, solid waste management, storm water drainage, urban environmental management, resource recovery, energy recovery, circular economy, climate resilience, digitalization, and other relevant areas.

The selection of candidate, research topic, course work/ credit requirements, allocation of research supervisor/co-supervisor, research progress, publication requirements, minimum standards for completion for a research scholar shall be decided by such terms and conditions as may be specified and agreed upon by the participating academic institutions. Academic, research, administrative, and infrastructure requirements are to be taken care by recognized academic institutions for Ph.D. programme under PHE Sector Development Scheme. The Institute may also engage the sponsored Ph.D. candidates in the Applied Research Programmes funded under "PHE Sector Development Scheme".

The Ph.D. Programme under the PHE Sector Development Scheme shall be sponsored in the following 30 academic institutions, which are currently empaneled by the Ministry for conducting the sponsored Post Graduate (M.Tech./M.E.) programmes in Public Health/Environmental Engineering,

Sl No.	Name of the Institute	Sl No.	Name of the Institute
1	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi	16	IIT, Bhubaneshwar, Odisha
2	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Powai, Mumbai	17	IIT, Madras, Tamil Nadu
3	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, West Bengal	18	NIT, Meghalaya, Shillong
4	Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur	19	NIT, Rourkela, Odisha
5	Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur	20	NIT, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu
6	Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad	21	Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
7	Sri G. S. Institute of Technology & Science, Indore	22	College of Engineering Trivandrum (CET), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

8	Centre for Environmental Studies, Anna University, Chennai	23	Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (Sambalpur), Odisha
9	Institute of Science and Technology, JNTU, Hyderabad	24	Puducherry Technological University, Pillaichavadi, Puducherry
10	Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering, Mysore	25	IIT, Ropar, Rupnagar, Punjab
11	Veermata Jeejabai Technological Institute, Mumbai	26	IIT, Roorkee, Deptt. of Civil Engg., Uttarakhand
12	All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Kolkata	27	NIT, Manipur, Langol, Imphal
13	Delhi Technological University, Shahbad Daulatpur, Main Bawana Road, Delhi	28	Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNIT), Surat, Gujarat
14	COEP Technological University, Pune, Maharashtra	29	Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST), Shibpur, Howrah, West Bengal
15	Rajasthan Technical University, Kota, Rajasthan	30	North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST), Nirjuli, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

V. Duration & Eligibility criteria for Ph.D. programme

The Ph.D. Programme (Full-Time or Part-Time) shall be sponsored under the Scheme for a period of up to three years, which may be extended to a maximum of four years, subject to approval of the Ministry and satisfactory academic progress. The general Terms and Conditions applicable to Full-Time and Part-Time Ph.D. Candidates for admission in to the Ph.D. programme are as follows,

A. Criteria for Full-Time and Part-Time Ph.D. programme

i. The candidate shall have at least 10 years of regular work experience in the Public Health Engineering (PHE) sector. In addition, the candidate shall satisfy any higher experience requirement prescribed by the concerned academic institution for admission to the Ph.D. programme.

ii. Candidates possessing a Master's degree (M.Tech., M.E. or equivalent) in Public Health Engineering, Environmental Engineering, or a related discipline from a recognized institution, obtained after completion of a four-year/eight-semester Bachelor's degree (B.Tech., B.E. or equivalent), shall be eligible for admission under the Programme,

provided they satisfy the minimum academic requirements, including aggregate marks and/or equivalent grade/CGPA, prescribed by the concerned academic institution.

iii. The candidate shall not have attained the age of 45 years as on the last date prescribed for submission of applications under the Ph.D. Programme.

iv. Candidates who have already applied for/ been selected for/ secured admission to a Ph.D. programme in any of the empaneled institutions, as well as those intending to apply during the current academic year, shall be eligible to seek sponsorship under the Scheme, subject to fulfilment of the prescribed eligibility conditions.

v. The candidate shall obtain prior approval of the competent authority of the parent Department/Organisation for availing sponsorship under the Scheme.

vi. The Parent Department /nominating authority shall, prior to forwarding the nomination, certify that the candidate is eligible and can be relieved from service for pursuing the full-time/Part-time Ph.D. programme.

vii. The financial support as admissible shall be paid to candidates who have obtained permission for the Ph.D. programme by the competent authority in accordance with the applicable service rules.

viii. The sponsorship shall be admissible for the period of study leave sanctioned by the competent authority for pursuing a Ph.D., in accordance with the applicable service rules.

ix. No monthly stipend shall be admissible where the participant continues to draw leave salary during the period of study leave. Further, the grant of any stipend and reimbursement/payment of the Ph.D. programme fee shall be subject to the applicable service rules, and no benefit shall be admissible if it is inconsistent with or prohibited under such rules.

x. In case the selected candidate(s) are not relieved in time to enable them to join the Institute or not joined on personal grounds, it is very likely that the slot kept for them shall remain unutilized for that academic session and under such circumstances, their candidature shall not be considered for admission for the next academic session (i.e. debarred for 1 Year).

xi. Sponsorship under the Scheme shall be provided for a period of three years, including coursework and research activities, and may be extended up to a maximum of four years, subject to approval of the competent authority/Ministry, as applicable. The first year shall normally be utilized for completion of the prescribed coursework and commencement of research, while the remaining period shall be devoted to research work and fulfilment of the requirements for award of the Ph.D. degree as prescribed by the academic institution.

xii. The candidate shall submit annual progress reports duly certified by the Research Supervisor(s) and the concerned academic institution. Continuation of sponsorship beyond third year shall be subject to satisfactory academic and research progress.

xiii. Upon completion of the Ph.D. programme, the candidate shall submit a copy of the thesis, degree award certificate, and a brief summary of research outcomes to the Ministry through the concerned academic institution.

xiv. Upon successful completion of the Programme, the candidate shall be required to serve the sponsoring Government Department/Organization for a minimum period of five years, or in accordance with the applicable service rules and conditions, if any.

xv. The Ministry reserves the right to withdraw sponsorship in cases of unsatisfactory academic progress, prolonged absence, disciplinary proceedings, cancellation of admission by the institution, submission of false information, or violation of any provision of the Scheme.

xvi. Bond - The candidate shall execute a bond for recovery of the sponsorship amount and other associated expenditure in the event that he/she discontinues, withdraws from, or fails to successfully complete the programme, or resigns/quits Government service within five years of completion of the programme. The sponsoring department/organization shall ensure recovery of the amount from the candidate's salary or other dues, in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures.

B. Specific criteria for Full time Ph.D. programme

i. Candidates who have already availed sponsorship for an M.Tech./M.E. programme under the CPHEEO Public Health Engineering (PHE) Training Programme shall not be eligible for sponsorship under the Full-Time Ph.D. Programme. However, they may apply for sponsorship under the Part-Time Ph.D. Programme. Such candidates may also be considered for Full-Time Ph.D. sponsorship if their parent department permits them to pursue the programme on other leaves/Extraordinary Leave (EoL), subject to the applicable rules and approval of the nominating authority.

ii. The Parent Department /nominating authority shall, prior to forwarding the nomination, certify that the candidate is eligible and can be relieved from service for pursuing the full-time Ph.D. programme and shall be granted study leave/other leave/Extra-ordinary Leave, as admissible under the relevant service rules in the event of selection.

iii. Candidates applying to the Full-Time Ph.D. Programme shall be eligible to avail Study Leave for a maximum period of 24 months combined with other leaves/Extra-ordinary Leave, as admissible under the applicable service rules. During this period, they shall continue to draw pay and allowances from their parent department.

iv. Upon completion of the Study Leave period, the candidate may either (i) continue the Full-Time Ph.D. Programme during the third year by availing other leaves/EoL, subject to approval of the parent department and applicable service rules, or (ii) opt for conversion to Part-Time Ph.D. subject to the rules and regulations of the concerned academic institution.

VI. Financial support for Ph.D. programme

The sponsored candidates (Full/Part time) are required to pay / deposit Institute's fees, hostel and mess charge on their own at the time of admission and later, the Ministry reimburses the fees through the institute to the candidates after receiving the cost estimate with list of candidates admitted, details of fee, date of joining etc. from the Institute.

The financial assistance under the Scheme shall be provided in accordance with the applicable service rules through the concerned academic institution and shall comprise the following components for the Ph.D. Programme, for a period of three years (which may be extended to a maximum of four years, subject to approval of the Ministry):

A. Applicable to Full-Time and Part-Time Ph.D. Candidates

i. **Institute Fee Reimbursement:** Reimbursement of the actual institute fees, including hostel and mess charges, wherever applicable, as per the approved fee structure of the concerned academic institution.

ii. **Annual Research Grant:** An Annual Research Grant of up to ₹50,000 per annum shall be provided during the second and third years of the Ph.D. programme to support research related activities such as field investigations, laboratory analysis, software, data collection, publication charges, and other approved research expenses, subject to satisfactory academic progress and submission of utilization details.

iii. **Extension beyond 3rd year:** In the event of extension of the Ph.D. programme to the fourth year, Institute Fee Reimbursement and Annual Research Grant may be provided subject to prior approval of the Ministry.

B. Applicable only to Full-Time Ph.D. Candidates

i. **Monthly Stipend:** Full-Time Ph.D. candidates shall be eligible for a stipend of ₹50,000 per month during the period of EOL or only after the expiry of the approved Study Leave / other leave during which they draw leave salary from their parent Department/Organisation, provided they are no longer in receipt of leave salary. The grant of the stipend shall be subject to the applicable service rules, and no stipend shall be admissible where it is inconsistent with or prohibited under such rules. No Monthly Stipend shall be payable during the fourth year or beyond.

The release of financial assistance under the Scheme shall be subject to the Terms and Conditions prescribed by the Ministry and the submission of requisite documents by the concerned academic institution similar to the PG programme under PHE Sector Development Scheme.

Note:

1. The Sponsorship/Grant-in-aid will be released by this Ministry to the Institutes concerned after receiving the Budget Estimate along with the latest circular for fees structure by the Institutes and candidates will get the admissible grant through the Institute.

2. The Sponsorship/Grant-in-aid will be released to the concerned institute only after receipt of previous Utilization Certificates (in GFR 19-A format) along with the audited statements of expenditure in respect of any Grant-in-aid released by this Ministry to the Institute for sponsored Ph.D. programme under PHE Sector Development Scheme.