

## Centre lifts ban on spending under NRHM

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SIX months after stopping payments for construction works under the National Rural Health Mission, the Central government has allowed spending of 80 per cent of the funds earmarked for construction purposes

and said the remaining 20 per cent will be spent only after a third-party evaluation of the works.

As financial scams in NRHM funds began to surface in UP in May and June this year, the Central government had promptly imposed a restriction on expenditure of funds already committed

for construction work under NRHM in the year 2009-10 and 2010-11. This has halted several works. The latest instructions, allowing spending 80 per cent of the funds, were sent earlier this month.

In the years 2009-10 and 2010-11, approximately Rs 966 crore were sanctioned for various construction

work under NRHM. The construction work were handed over to four construction agencies, including UP Processing and Construction Cooperative Federation, Uttar Pradesh Project Corporation Limited, Construction and Design Services, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam.