

Benchmark pricing for health services

Bhubaneswar, Feb 22: The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) president Suresh Chandra Mohanty Saturday said the Central government is working on a model for benchmark pricing of certain health services. ICAI is reviewing prices charged by hospitals for various health services and will submit a report to the Union health ministry in March. Prices charged by hospitals are being calculated based on infrastructure and other expenses, he said. Mohanty said the 55th National Cost Convention which will take place February 23-24 here focuses on 'Nation Building through Cost Competitiveness and Responsible Governance'.

Around 1,000 delegates, including executives of corporate houses, government officials, industry bodies, financial experts and policy makers from India and

abroad, are expected to take part in the meet. In the current economic scenario, government and private organisations require resource efficient solutions, Mohanty said. He added that the Central government has assigned the organisation the task to assess air fare, railway tariff and port operation charges and come up with suggestions to make pricing more transparent and uniform. Mohanty said cost accountants play a key role in the growth of organisations. However, financially it is not feasible for small organisations to hire cost accountants. Hence, ICAI, in 1997, proposed that the state government should start a four month certificate course in accounting technicians for students who have passed Plus-II examinations. However, the government has not yet taken any decision in this regard, he said.