

Social Sector

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'Govt, MCDs wasted money on sprays that didn't work'

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IN ITS first audit of the AAP-led Delhi government, tabled in the Delhi Assembly on Friday, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) slammed the state government and civic bodies for failing to contain the outbreak of dengue in the capital over the years.

From wasting funds on unapproved chemical sprays to unskilled and very few domestic breeding checkers to releasing advertisements after the epidemic, the report highlighted failings in the health and surveillance system.

"Despite witnessing outbreaks since 1967 and claiming that several steps were taken to contain it, the outbreaks continued," observed the report, which took samples from January 2013 to December 2015 to assess if steps taken to contain dengue were effective or not.

In 2006, as many as 33 dengue deaths were reported followed by one to eight deaths over the next few years. But in 2015, the figures spiked and 60 deaths were reported.

The audit also assessed if sentinel surveillance hospitals were adequately prepared to handle influx of patients and if they adhered to GNCTD guidelines.

The audit found that there was an "absence of an epidemiological surveillance — a systematic collection, recording, analysis and interpretation and

MCD EXPENDITURE

■ 3,358 unskilled people employed but no monitoring of work.
MONEY SPENT
Rs 109.43 crore

■ No system to select insecticides, diluents, between April 2013 and March 2016.
MONEY SPENT
Rs 88.26 crore

■ 83.63 lakh houses treated with 6 different insecticides. 72.07 lakh houses treated using techniques not prescribed by guidelines.
MONEY SPENT
Rs 2.55 crore

■ Fogging carried out but no study done to ascertain its efficiency.
MONEY SPENT
Rs 95.10 lakh

dissemination of data of a disease to zero-in on action".

The report also pulled up the government for spending Rs 10.04 crore on dengue awareness campaigns during 2013-14 and 2015-16. The advertisements were released between September and November — after the outbreak — which defeated the objective, it said.

CAG doing it out of compulsion: Kejriwal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 10

HITTING OUT at Shashi Kant Sharma, the Comptroller and Auditor General, over the audit report on the Delhi government, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accused him of doing "politics" and said the top auditor might be doing this "out of compulsion" to save his job.

"We all know why the CAG is doing this. I think the CAG is doing this out of compulsion. The CAG should know that if it finds our mistakes, we will accept it but politics should be left to politicians," Kejriwal told reporters outside the Assembly on Friday.



CM Kejriwal

Commenting on the state finances, the audit watchdog said the Delhi government had made a total provision of Rs 42,809.39 crore in its 2015-16 Budget and incurred an expenditure of 35,434.86 crore — most of which was spent in a rush during the last quarter of the fiscal.

It resulted in savings of Rs 7,374.53 crore (17.23 per cent), which, the CAG said, indicates that estimates were not prepared after adequate scrutiny of the projects and schemes.

OTHER FINDINGS

NO COUNSELLORS FOR RAPE SURVIVORS

There are no counsellors in the one stop centres (OSCs) set up for rape survivors at 11 hospitals in the city, the CAG report said. It added that 3,822 cases were reported in these centres in 2015, of which 1,219, or 32%, were of sexual assault.

SERVICE TAX ARREARS TRIPLE

Service tax arrears tripled to Rs 71,257 crore in 2014-15 within a couple of years, the CAG report said, expressing concern that recovery is not being given due importance.

LAND FOR HEALTH FACILITIES UNUSED

Directorate of Health Services acquired 77,558.35 sq mts of land for 30 new health facilities during 2007-16 at a cost of Rs 14.26 crore. None of these plots was utilised till August 2016.

INSUFFICIENT STAFF AT MORTUARIES

The report brought up the issue of inadequate staff in the forensic medicine department and mortuaries of some hospitals. "No action has been taken by government on request by hospitals" to expedite hiring of staff, the report said.

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