

Social Sector

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staff, machines missing in hospitals

Crores 'wasted' as dengue still a peril;

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The CAG has rapped the BJP-led civic bodies in the Capital for "failing" to mount an effective response to dengue and "wasting" crores of rupees.

Institutional gaps

The CAG's performance audit report said the municipal bodies spent ₹109.43 crore, from 2013 to 2015, on domestic breeding-checkers without any supervision and

assessment of the work done.

Among the institutional gaps that the CAG report pointed out was the lack of an effective surveillance mechanism.

Only 289 out of 967 units (30%) reported dengue data to the State Surveillance Unit, thereby undermining its objective, the report said.

"Expenditure totalling ₹42.85 crore was incurred on anti-mosquito operations, adopting techniques and

chemical formulations that are not prescribed. In addition, there was no record of usage of insecticides valued at ₹79.76 lakh," it said.

Health lapses

The watchdog also pulled up the Delhi government for spending ₹10.04 crore during 2013 to 2015 on awareness campaigns after dengue outbreak, thereby "defeating" its purpose.

This year, the Directorate of Health Services acquired

77,558.65 sqm of land, costing ₹14.26 crore for 30 planned projects.

'Not much headway'

Apart from this, ₹3.28 crore was also proposed for building of boundary walls and fencing.

However, none of these projects were started, the report said.

"Not much headway could be made in another 11 projects of new medical facilities though DHS had incurred an

expenditure of ₹17.06 crore towards land cost and boundary walls," the report found.

The audit revealed that most hospitals are facing acute shortage of doctors, nurses and paramedics. The shortage ranged from 15% to 91%.

Facilities under utilised

The maternal and child health and diabetes, endocrine and metabolic blocks of Guru Tegh Bahadur Hos-

pital remained under utilised even after their completion due to shortage of staff, non-installation of medical gas pipeline and delay in procurement of the requisite equipment.

Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital and Janakpuri Super Speciality Hospital remained under utilised even after four to eight years of completion due to non-recruitment of staff and lack of equipment.

'Lack of planning for RTE Act'

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Enrolment of students in Class I at government and aided schools saw a 23% dip last year, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report said on Friday.

The number came down from 2,04,884 in 2010-11 to 1,56,911 in 2015-16. The overall enrolment, including that in private schools, also did not show much of an improvement. "No specific targets were fixed by the government or local bodies for enrolment of children," the CAG observed.

Survey not done

The report also said that the Delhi government failed to complete the mandatory household survey for every child between 6 and 14 years, which serves the purpose of maintaining a database. This can then be linked to the mapping of schools to determine and establish

neighbourhood schools.

"In the absence of such a database, it was not possible for the government to ensure enrolment... The government lacked effective planning for implementing the Right to Education Act in Delhi," it read.

Delay in release of funds

The report also pointed out delays in release of funds to the 'Universalisation of Elementary Education Mission' (UEEM). However, a major portion of the funds released remains unutilised. "As against an approval of ₹1,115.72 crore, only ₹647.48 crore was made available to the UEEM during 2010-16. The UEEM spent only ₹534.29 crore," the report added.

It also said that ₹18.29 crore sanctioned to the UEEM in 2015-16 for construction of additional rooms and toilets remained unutilised as of June 2016.

Uniforms, text books and writing material were also not distributed to all students of the 34 selected corporation schools. In schools aided by the municipalities, the material had not been issued to any student.

The struggle to maintain a healthy student-teacher ratio also continues, the report pointed added.

Other loopholes

Though the government has created 9,500 new teaching posts, it is yet to induct permanent teachers.

Earlier this year, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had said that a proposal to make many of the 17,000 guest teachers permanent was awaiting the L-G's approval.

The report also said that only 90,262 children from the economically weaker section were admitted as against the 1,45,142 seats reserved for them.