

Social Sector

Indian Express 11-03-17

(12)

# 23% enrolment drop in schools in 6 years 'Rs 28 crore spent on ads outside Delhi'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 10

A REPORT of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) stated that a drop of 23 per cent in enrolment in government and government-aided schools was observed in Delhi. The report also said that a household survey to gather data of children up to 14 years was not completed, nor was mapping of all schools done.

Slamming the Directorate of Education, the report said, "A performance audit conducted from 2010-16 brought out that effective implementation of the RTE Act suffered due to poor planning, continuing vacancies as well as delay in release of funds (by the MHRD) and its utilisation."

"Analysis of data provided by the DoE with respect to children enrolled at entry level of Class I... revealed that for the period 2010-16, government and aided schools showed a declining trend



Implementation of RTE Act suffered due to poor planning, says audit. Archive

of 23 per cent. Enrolment in private schools showed an increase of 35 per cent," the report said.

Other observations made were non-utilisation of sanctioned funds for construction of additional rooms and toilets in MCD schools, 22 per cent of sanctioned posts of teachers and librarians lying vacant, and uniforms and textbooks not being distributed to students.

PRAGYA KAUSHIKA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 10

STATING THAT Rs 28.71 crore of the total expenditure of Rs 33.40 crore was incurred on releasing advertisements outside Delhi, the CAG slammed the Delhi government for violating Supreme Court guidelines on issuing advertisements.

"It was found that over 85 per cent of expenditure was incurred on one specific publicity campaign pertaining to ads released outside Delhi," the report said.

The report also pulled up the government for putting out non-verifiable content in advertisements. Referring to an advertisement on saving Rs 350 crore on three bridges, the report said that while one bridge was completed in January 2016, minor work was carried out on the other two. The projected savings were based on assessment and not on actual ex-

penditure, the report said.

In its defense, the Directorate of Information and Publicity (DIP) said the AAP government is the "nomenclature used for Delhi government by the public". The directorate said it was a political issue between two legally constituted governments that was put before the public.

The audit also slammed AAP for establishing Shabdarth — an agency it set up to handle its publicity and ad campaigns. The report said it did not submit bills of newspapers and released advertisements without assessing the cost involved.

The audit also found improper maintenance of registers for outdoor campaigns and audio visual media. Scrutiny of the registers revealed that apart from expenditure of Rs 81.23 crore by the DIP, Rs 20.23 crore was paid in 2016-17 for advertisements released during 2015-16 — bringing the total expenditure to Rs 101.46 crore.

India Express 11-03-2017

India Express 11-03-17

# Labour dept leaves majority hanging: CAG

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 10

THE DELHI government's labour department has been very inactive between 2011 and 2015, according to the CAG report. In the last five years, the department has a pendency rate of 58 to 69 per cent in terms of disposing of cases filed by workers denied minimum wages.

Under the Employee's Compensation Act, 1923, the labour commissioner is supposed to dispose of cases within three months. But the CAG re-

port said cases were disposed of with delays ranging from three to four years — amounting to "postponement of timely relief to the injured or to the family of the deceased" as per the Act.

The government, in its reply, said the respective district labour commissioners and deputy labour commissioners were overburdened with work under the various labour laws and Acts and that "pendency does occur occasionally". "The issue will be taken on a campaign basis to liquidate pendency," an official said.

Of 16,373 complaints filed by workers not paid wages under

the Minimum Wages Act in three of the nine revenue districts surveyed in the CAG report, inspections were carried out by inspecting officers only in 4,432 complaints (27 per cent). The Act mandates a physical inspection of every factory or shop by inspecting officers.

The Labour department has also not brought in any mechanism to maintain a database on the number of shops, establishments, factories, and the workers employed by them.

As a result, the government has not ascertained which establishments are supposed to reg-

ister with them and how many contractors have valid licences, the CAG report said.

For instance, the government has not investigated the validity of claims and documents, including claims of health and welfare facilities, submitted by contractors for obtaining licences under the Contract Labour (Registration and Abolition) Act. Under the Factories Act, a mere 10 to 11 per cent factories were physically inspected before licences were issued, and only 38 to 50 per cent factories engaged in hazardous or dangerous processes were inspected.