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Jaipur Metro ill-conceived and unviable: CAG report

'City Wasn't Eligible For A Metro'

ON A WRONG TRACK?

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Jaipur: The latest CAG report said that due to defective planning and hasty decision making, a financially unviable Metro was introduced in Jaipur city which has not eased the difficulties of the commuters.

The report pointed out that as per 2011 Census, Jaipur city with a population of 2.3 million (less than 4 million) was not directly eligible for a metro rail project. Rajasthan government also did not prepare a Comprehensive Mobility plan (CMP) to realistically assess the need for a Metro in Jaipur. Further, instead of preparing the CMP, alternative analysis and then a detailed project report, government directly prepared the DPR, transportation study as part of DPR and thereafter CMP. The report further castigated the state government for going ahead with the Metro project without considering the mobility alternatives which could have served as feasible low-cost options to address the problem of traffic congestion in the city. Besides, the more feasible corridor of Durgapura to Ambabari which had higher Peak Hour Peak Direction Trips (PHPDT) and ridership was not selected for implementation in phase I. Instead, Mansarovar to Badi Choupar corridor which had lower PHPDT, lower ridership and lower average lead compared to the Durgapura-Ambabari corridor was executed first. Further, the lower cost technology of Light Rail Transit was not adopted. The procurement of rolling stock in advance for Phase-I B resulted not only in blocking of funds of Rs 72.30 crore but also reduction in useful life by at least four years.

The performance of Phase-I A of Jaipur Metro was 'poor' as the average ridership during the first 22 months of operation was just 19.17% of projected ridership and it has been dropping drastically during the subsequent months.

With an operating revenue of Rs 18.87 crore, JMRC was unable to meet its operating expenses of Rs 85.56 crore for first 22 months. During 2015-17, JMRC could earn only 16.34% revenue projected non-fare box revenue. They could neither commercially exploit the allotted land parcels nor lease out available area of nine Metro stations, said the report.

The report said the infrastructure created such as platform No. 2 of Chandpole station, underground parking beneath stabling yard, cleaning shed, effluent water treatment plant, automatic train washing plant could not be fully utilized due to improper planning and defective construction.

Raj used only 21% swacch mission funds

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Jaipur: Government of Rajasthan had released Rs 292.81 crore to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) during 2015-17 for solid waste management under Swachh Bharat Mission out of which only 21% fund was utilised, says the CAG report.

The report said assessment of waste generation, projection for future, requirement of manpower, vehicles, risk to environment and health hazards due to waste were not taken into consideration, neither at the state nor at the local bodies level.

Besides, there were no effective plans for 'reducing, reusing and recycling' of the waste in most of the local bodies and at village panchayats. In the absence of bylaws and designated authorities to levy penalty, none of the test checked gram panchayats had imposed penalty for violation of waste rules, the CAG report pointed out.

Compliance to the rules and regulations governing solid waste, plastic waste and e-waste was poor as door-to-door collection of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) was not done in 55.41% of the urban wards of the state during 2016-17. Solid waste was being neither segregated not processed in all test checked local bodies and unprocessed municipal solid waste was being dumped in open land.

Further, landfill sites were constructed in only three out of 22 local bodies, but these

JDA misspent funds for relocating slums

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Jaipur: The slum relocation scheme run by Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) under JNURM is an example of how the government agencies wasted Rs 259.99 crore meant for the poor without transferring the benefit to the intended beneficiaries. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) of the Central government introduced Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) as a sub mission under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in 2005-06.

It was aimed at integrating development of basic services to urban poor, including improved housing at affordable prices in the cities covered under the mission. According to the revised guidelines issued in February 2009 for the implementation of the scheme, due care should be taken to provide housing near the place of occupation of the urban poor.

HUPA directed in March 2010 that survey of slums and potential beneficiaries should be conducted and they should be consulted before preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR). Each DPR should also be accompanied by a list of beneficiaries based on socio-economic survey. Further willingness of the beneficiaries was to be obtained for rehabilitation/relocation and payment of beneficiary contribution. JDA was the implementing agency for the mission in 31 slums of Jaipur. Accordingly, JDA identified 31 slums (JDA-17 and JMC -14). Both the projects were approved by the Centre in September 2010. Work on the project for relocation of 14 slums having 2,892 dwelling units at Jaisinghpura Khor was completed by July 2015 with an expenditure of Rs 117.64 crore. Construction work for relocation of 17 slums having 2,922 dwelling units at Sikar and Ajmer Road was completed in May 2016 at a cost of Rs 142.28 crore. But, there were no takers for the houses.

Scrutiny of the records by CAG found that "the JDA contrary to the guidelines as well as direction of HUPA, without conducting the survey of 31 slums and obtaining consent of the identified beneficiaries for their relocation constructed the houses under the scheme." As a result, only 74 of the total 5,814 beneficiaries (1.24%) took possession of the houses. This resulted in an unfruitful ex-