

The Hindu

Corpn. 'dilutes' criteria for appointments

The Greater Chennai Corporation's hasty decision to appoint 'unqualified persons' as sanitary inspectors could have serious repercussions on the public health this monsoon.

The Public Health Department appointed over 60 basic health workers as sanitary inspectors on Tuesday, to fill 30 per cent of vacancies, claiming huge vacancies had affected public health services. However, the sanitary inspectors on the rolls have objected to the move.

According to them, most of the basic health workers appointed have only SSLC qualification whereas the post of sanitary inspectors requires a graduation in Chemistry and a postgraduate diploma. As the sanitary inspectors have a key role and responsibility under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act of issuing notice to violators, the move is expected to affect vector control operations and other key aspects of public health.

The sanitary workers demanded alternative measures to cope with the challenge.

Senior officials, however, said they had no other way out as the recruitment process was in a legal tangle. When they had begun the process of direct recruitment of sanitary inspectors, a few months ago, 71 sanitary inspectors were to be recruited through competitive examination. . As recruitment was through employment exchange, some candidates sought the intervention of the judiciary, delaying the new process, officials said.