

HS disease: OBPI vaccine on mass scale to save cattle



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CUTTACK: In a major boost to the activities in livestock-[health](#) sector, particularly the dairy and meat delivering animals, the State has now equipped itself with necessary infrastructure to produce vaccines and medicines to counter dreaded diseases. For the first time in the State, the Orissa Biological Products Institute (OBPI) has churned out vaccine for the dreaded haemorrhagic septicemia (HS) disease, that takes a heavy toll on adult cattle and other livestock, by using the advanced fermentation technology.

The OBPI has installed a state-of-the art specialised unit under the infrastructure upgradation initiative rolled out by Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services BP Sethi to not only churn out high efficiency and quality vaccines but also in far greater quantity than the manually operated ones.

According to estimates, prevalence of the highly infectitious HS disease is common with more than 70 per cent of the adult livestock population standing vulnerable to the affliction in un-immunised conditions. It has a mortality rate between 40 and 60 per cent. That means half of the animals affected are likely to die. Though vaccines have been formulated to counter the disease, low production rates have hindered the countering measures. Only around 29 per cent of the livestock population could be covered annually. But with the latest technology, OBPI has been able to commence batch production of vaccines to not only cover the entire population but also make surplus for sale to other states. Orissa has a livestock population of 2.40 crore of which cattle, including buffallos, account for 1.57 crore, sheep 17 lakh, goat 57 lakh and pig five lakh.

The unit would also enable OBPI to foray into production of new biologicals like goat pox, paste-de-petis, black quarter, Ranikhet and several other diseases that pose serious threat to the livestock.