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18 Jun 2018 | Mumbai | HT Correspondent htmetro@hindustantimes.com

Plastic ban from June 24: BMC collects 1.42 lakh kg

With the plastic ban coming into effect from June 24, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has collected 1.42 lakh kg of banned plastic from across the city. While the BMC has been aggressively collecting the banned plastic items, it has not been able to put in place a mechanism to recycle the collected material.

Prior to the plastic ban, BMC had 36 segregation centres to collect plastic waste. The civic body had set up 24 additional plastic collection bins after the implementation of the plastic ban. However, the civic body has not been able to recycle the collected plastic as there are no plastic recyclers in the city.

"We have contacted a couple of recyclers who are registered with Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB). There are two in Bhiwandi, however, none in Mumbai. We are still working out the details on how to recycle the collected plastic," said Kiran Dighavkar, nodal officer, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Of the 1.42 lakh kg of plastic waste collected in the city, Bandra (West) led the way with 30,460kg of plastic being discarded from the area. To further improve the collection, BMC is also organising a plastic alternative exhibition from June 22-June 24 at National Sports Club Of India (NSCI) Worli.

The ban on plastic carry bags and other single-use materials was imposed by the state via a government resolution on March 23 this year. Following this, it gave citizens a three-month leeway to get rid of plastic items in order to gradually move towards environment-friendly materials. BMC had also given citizens a buffer period to adjust to the nonuse of plastic items. The banned items include all kinds of plastic bags, disposable plastic cutlery and thermocol.

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