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BMC'S THREAT TO CHEMBUR SOCIETIES

Segregate waste or cough up Rs 5,000

Civic body gets tough after countless societies ignore its directive to separate wet and dry waste; aims to ensure everyone adopts this system by 2014

PICS: SATISH MALWADE



The Gulab View Society in Chembur, which has received several warnings from the BMC, has procured trolley dustbins to segregate garbage

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After its strategy of issuing directives urging people to segregate wet and dry waste bit the dust, the BMC has toughened its stance and threatened to fine defaulting societies to the tune of Rs 5,000 with immediate effect.

Earlier, societies were fined after being issued three warning notices to start segregating waste. Since that did not work, from now on, the BMC will penalise society if it does not start segregation immediately after receiving its first notice. The step has been taken to ensure that by 2014, all housing societies separate wet and dry garbage before it is deposited in dumpers.

Dozens of notices have been issued to

► The city generates 9,200 tonnes of garbage daily. BMC collects door-to-door waste from 30 to 40 per cent households.

► According to rough estimates, less than 2 per cent waste is being segregated.

► BMC will have to meet the target as it is one of the service-level benchmarks prescribed by the Union ministry of urban development. Failure will make the BMC ineligible for central funds under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Renewal Mission. The 100% collection has to be achieved by March 2014 and segregation by 2015



Household helps do not know how to segregate waste.

But we are trying to implement the system as far as possible. Except for one or two homes, all are trying to segregate waste

VIJAY CHUGH
Treasurer of Gulab View Society

than 2 per cent waste is being segregated. A senior civic official said, "By the end of 2014, we have to ensure that all housing societies adopt this practice. We have issued notices time and again to residents, but the response

Vijay Chugh, treasurer of Gulab View society said they were trying their best to construct a system of segregation. "We have circulated the notices to society members. The segregation is not working perfectly since

housing societies in the M-East ward, which covers residential areas of Chembur. This area has previously recorded some of the highest number of defaulting societies, which did not follow the segregation directive despite being issued several warnings.

The fine, BMC hopes, will jolt defaulting societies into action. "We have got the letters from the BMC and are trying to segregate garbage into wet and dry dustbins. We had received notices in the past too, and have alerted residents about the issue. Trolley dustbins have been procured to segregate garbage," said Gulshan Marwah, secretary of the Gulab View housing society on Dr CG Road, Chembur. The BMC has issued a notice to the 18-bungalow society, along with several others in the area.

Currently, the city generates 9,200 tonnes of garbage daily. BMC collects door-to-door waste from 30 to 40 per cent households. According to rough estimates, less

has not been good. There are provisions to fine residents for failing to segregate garbage under the Municipal Solid Waste rules."

Kiran Dighavkar, Assistant Municipal Commissioner, M-East ward, said that though notices had been sent to several societies in his ward, the need of the hour was awareness. "We are concentrating on those societies that have a door-to-door garbage pick-up facility. Our collection trucks go to their gates, so it is easy for them to segregate garbage and hand it over. The problem is that few people know about this," he said.

The BMC had come up with a circular to enforce the segregation of waste among citizens in February this year. However, its implementation began only last week. Other than a fine of up to Rs 5,000, the circular specified that the punishment for repeated non-compliance could even include imprisonment for office-bearers of the defaulting society or flat owners.

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As a solution to this, societies could engage a rag-picker who would go from house to house, segregate the garbage and hand it over to the collectors.

There is a reason why the BMC is in such a hurry to ensure that all societies implement this system. "We will have to meet the target as it is one of the service-level benchmarks prescribed by the Union ministry of urban development. Failure will make the BMC ineligible for central funds under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Renewal Mission. The 100 per cent collection has to be achieved by March 2014 and segregation by 2015," an official said.

It had even decided to engage a public relations firm to educate citizens on effective waste management.