

Commissioner demands list of pending projects

Standing committee has been sitting on them beyond the 15-day period, in gross violation of Maharashtra Municipal Corporations Act

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Time and tide wait for none it is said. But this has failed to cut ice with the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) that is yet to issue work orders for a host of proposals that have already been cleared by the standing committee. And, this is in gross violation of the Maharashtra Municipal Corporations Act. Now, following complaints by various NGOs, the municipal commissioner has ordered for a list of such proposals that have been gathering dust for over 15 days.

According to Section 73 of the Act, the municipal commissioner has to seek the approval of the standing committee to pass any contract. The former shall consider and dispose of the proposal within 15 days beginning from the date of the standing committee meeting. No wonder many proposals have neither been approved nor rejected. They are simply waiting for the signature of the standing committee chairman.

Raising this issue, non-governmental organisations like Parisar, Nagarik Chetana Manch, Sajag Nagarik Manch and Surajya Sangharsha Samiti have lodged a complaint with the municipal commissioner, demanding that a book of minutes be maintained by PMC as per the provisions of the MMC Act and that it should be signed by the chairperson of the standing com-

mittee, with any corrections if required. And, at the next meeting, all the heads of departments will be free to issue work orders for contracts as soon as the proposal is approved by the committee and the minute book signed by the Chairperson. Section 73 clearly states that for any contract which involves an expenditure in excess of Rs 25 lakh, the approval of the standing committee is a must.

Municipal commissioner Kunal Kumar has written to the PMC secretary, demanding a list of the proposals pending. "The standing committee and the general body receive many proposals from the administration and various committees. There is a time limit for deciding on them. The municipal commissioner has the right to take the decision if they fail to stick to the deadline. The decision will be considered as approved if the standing committee takes more than 15 days and the concerned report will be then sent to the state government," said Kumar.

"Decisions get delayed due to ambiguity in the proposal or requirement of additional information. If everything is clear, the administration can immediately implement the proposal. Many a time, the administration has taken the help of the government for immediate implementation of the decision," said Rajendra Jagtap, deputy municipal commissioner.

Municipal secretary Sunil Parkhi said, "I have forwarded all the proposals to the municipal commissioner."