

BBMP willing to pay Rs 37k for a sapling with tree guard

By Atul Chaturvedi, Bangalore Mirror Bureau | Feb 28, 2014, 01.00 AM IST



The BBMP claims to have scrapped the proposal, but the project is still on

The cash-strapped civic agency made the deal while awarding a Rs12 lakh contract to plant 1,100 saplings

A plan to plant 1,100 saplings at 15 acres of the Karnataka Compost Development Corporation premises in Kudlu will cost the cash-strapped Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) A whopping Rs 12.71 lakh, as per an agreement document procured by **Bangalore Mirror**. Per sapling, this works out to Rs 37,400.

Work has already been entrusted to Karnataka Road Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL). BBMP's solid waste management (SWM) wing's executive engineers have signed the agreement documents, while the tree plantation work has not even been brought to the BBMP's forest cell department's attention. Officials at SWM claim that the project has been cancelled, but the work has actually begun.

The allotted area of 15 acres is where segregated organic wet waste from city is being brought and processed into compost and supplied to farmers, who use the compost as manure for cultivation. According to officials, BBMP requested KCDC to start accepting segregated garbage to an extent of 75-100 metric ton per day. To meet this additional demand, the managing director KCDC has approached the government and Karnataka high court to provide infrastructure facilities over and above the existing processing capacity of 250 to 300 metric ton per day.

A senior official attached to solid waste management said, "After the Karnataka High Court's directive, action is being taken to provide infrastructure facilities like additional approach road from HSR layout, shifting of garbage, tree plantations, barricading and high roof truss shelter at the said land amounting to Rs 4.45 crore. Interestingly all the technical and administrative sanction have been given to KRIDL during March 2013 to take up tree plantation work."

Officials claimed that out of Rs 4.45 crore Rs 20 lakh has been allotted to only on tree plantation on the premises of KCDC. This apart, KCDC has requested a grant of additional adjacent land belonging to BBMP measuring about 14 acres and the same has been handed over to them.

KCDC has also requested for Rs 1 crore for procuring an additional processing machinery plant of capacity 300 TPD and a JCB excavator. The amount has been released by BBMP and it is paid to KCDC for the same. Not only this, BBMP has also approved Rs 75 lakh to purchase a shredding machine and Rs 5 lakh for hiring a Hitachi excavator for shifting of old garbage.

When contacted, SWM joint commissioner Yatish Kumar said, "It was a combined file and KRIDL executed the tender, which is against the rules. Though the estimate was prepared, we have not executed it, it stands cancelled. KRIDL is a work execution agency - contractor and they cannot prepare estimation cost. Now we have asked forest cell head to prepare fresh estimates and execute the work."

Chief conservator of forest, Brijesh Kumar said, "The file is been sent to me and I haven't gone through it. I will execute the work as guided by the BBMP commissioner."

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