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Kolkata civic body floats tender for water meters

Our Bureau

Kolkata, Jan. 6 The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has floated a global tender for 15,000 water meters to be installed in residential and commercial complexes in a pilot project this year. The ultimate goal of installing water meters in all households across the city will follow, Mr Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya, KMC Mayor, said here.

The project is awaiting selection of suppliers and subsequent delivery of the meters, he added. Currently, there are around 2.36 lakh domestic units and 7,000 commercial users of the meters under KMC. The installation of meters was believed to be absolutely crucial to bring down wastage of water.

Against the city's requirement of 270 million gallons of water a day, KMC produces 258 million gallons from surface water and 25 million gallon from ground water, the mayor said.

KMC has already taken up a Rs 300-crore project to repair the 23-km underground Tala-Palta pipeline. "Tenders have been invited and the project will be done using trench-less technology," he said.

The Union Urban Development ministry has sanctioned the project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and 35 per cent of the funds will come from the Centre.

Besides, KMC had also drawn up plans to promote rainwater harvesting and check wastage by using ball-cork valves in underground reservoirs. KMC spends around Rs 137.88 crore annually on operation and maintenance of the water supply system in the city.