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Garbage scam raises a stink

Bangalore : Close on the heels of the Karnataka Housing Board scam comes yet another scam that has created quite a ruckus in the assembly. Opposition parties have sought CBI probe into the Rs 100-crore garbage scam in the BBMP.

Raising the issue in the council, opposition leader V S Ugrappa distributed copies of an inquiry report, which stated that 30 medical officers, three health officers, 30 [contractors](#)

and 26 BBMP employees were involved in the scam, causing a huge loss to the organization. The issue pertains to garbage clearance in the city between March 2007 and June 2008, during which time BBMP had paid around Rs 110 crore to contractors.

Demanding a discussion on the issue and CBI probe, Ugrappa said: "Chief minister B S Yeddyurappa is the Bangalore development minister. No action has been initiated against the guilty, even after eight months of obtaining the inquiry report. The CM has to take responsibility for this."

As per the agreement, the contractor should have ensured the following functions -- road sweeping, garbage removal, removing silt from the drains, removing weeds, cleaning public toilets, removing garbage from vacant sites and removing illegal buntings and [banners](#).

Suspecting goof-ups, the issue was handed over to Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force IGP N R Nadamani for investigation. Nadamani in his report in November 2008 had made the following observations:

* The officers and contractors have colluded and misappropriated money.

The officers have failed in monitoring the effective removal of garbage and have not followed the prescribed procedures.

* Between March 2007 and June 2008, the contractors have encashed Rs 110.79 crore from the BBMP.

* The contractors have flouted norms and misappropriated crores of rupees. They have not done their job properly and not disposed garbage at designated sites. They have also failed to maintain a log book, keep track of labourers' attendance, PF details, and not issued salaries through cheques.

* 70% of the assigned work was not carried out in one of the packages. Recover 50% of the Rs 101.95 crore paid to the contractors. Also, recover Rs 8.84 crore from the contractors as they have not maintained logbooks to submit lead bills.

Admitting that corruption had become all pervasive, medical education minister Ramachandra Gowda said a re-inquiry had been ordered into the scam in February 2009 and they had received the report in May.