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Netas oppose BMC plan on water tax hike



MUMBAI: Leaders of various parties in BMC are gearing up to oppose the administration's plan to continue with the up to 8% yearly water tax hike. They raised objection on Wednesday when the issue came up at the standing committee meeting.

In 2012, BMC cleared a proposal to increase water tax (for residential and commercial use) by up to 8% every year for the next five years. The standing committee, at that time, had given the civic chief the power to increase the tax without taking their approval. The five-year deadline ends in June 2017.

BJP group leader Manoj Kotak said, "BMC has Rs 61,000 crore bank deposits and there is no need to continue with the hike. Like the state waived off farmer loans, we will ensure citizens are freed from the tax burden."

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Opposition leader in BMC and Congress corporator Ravi Raja , said, "We are opposing the 8% yearly hike on water taxes."

Shiv Sena leaders said they are yet to take a call on the issue but will oppose any tax burden.