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BMC’s P-South ward office to set up solar plant on roof, save up to Rs 3 lakh/year

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MUMBAI: The BMC’s P-South ward will soon set up a rooftop solar plant at its office or its power needs. It is expected to recover its investment in the plant in about five years by way of savings on energy expenditure.

The civic body will install a 25KW on-grid rooftop solar plant at its ward office building at Goregaon (West). It is expected to spend between Rs 18 lakh and Rs 20 lakh to set up the plant. Municipal officials claimed the plant would help save between Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 3 lakh per year.

“The ward office building and premises consume over 50,000 units of electricity per year and this solar plant, which will be connected to the grid, will help us save big on energy. We have enough space on our rooftop, and we will be using about 1,200 square feet to install the solar panels,” a P-South ward official said.

“The solar panels have a life of about 25 years and a rough calculation taking into account the projected rise in power tariffs annually indicates that the ward will save about Rs 1 crore in the next 20 years,” the official said. The ward has followed the guidelines of the central and state governments while setting up the solar plant, he added.

According to the official, the power generated by the plant will be supplied to the grid and the electricity supplier will provide the ward office a rebate in bills commensurate with the power supplied.

Vishwas Shankarwar, deputy municipal commissioner of Zone-IV, said, “We wanted to implement some new initiatives. Therefore, we zeroed in on the solar plant, which will help us in saving on the expenditure incurred on power consumption.”

Last June, the civic body’s G-South ward office had commissioned a 20KW solar plant on its building rooftop. The office consumes about 25,000 units of power a year and the plant is expected to help it save between Rs 1.5 lakh and Rs 2 lakh per year in terms of expenditure on energy.