

The Times of India 21.03.2014

Corporators concerned about encroachment on open spaces

KOLHAPUR: Members of the standing committee on Thursday asked the civic administration to take steps to name the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation (KMC) as the property owner of the 1,100 open spaces in the city, which are increasingly facing the threat of encroachment.

Standing committee chairman Sachin Chavan and corporators Subhash Ramugade, Sangita Devekar and Satish Lolage complained that the 1,100 open spaces reserved in the city have either been sold or face encroachments. Over the years, the estate department has registered KMC's name as the owner in only 600 properties, Chavan said.

"The open space reserved in Ward B was sold by the original owner since KMC failed to name itself as the property owner. The delay in the transfer of property also caused encroachment over the open space near Khare Mangal Karyalaya. The KMC should initiate criminal action against the

person who had sold the open space," members said.

The administration assured the committee members that the encroachments would be removed immediately. "We will ask the town planning, estate and other concerned departments to coordinate and remove the encroachments," administration said. "The issue of the open space in ward B is sub judice and the administration cannot comment on it. But when the owner requested for the permission to sell the open space, KMC had rejected it," administration representatives told the committee.

Administration also told the committee that it will present the report of the progress in construction of the Keshavrao Bhosale natyagruha and Shahu Khasbaug Maidan before the committee members.

Construction of sewage treatment plant (STP) at Dudhali to process 17 million litres of waste water each day has been stopped by contractor, administration told member Mahesh Sawant. KMC has proposed to impose fine of Rs 10,000 each day for the delay in the work over contractor, administration informed.

The project is in the pipeline for eight months despite the work order being issued. However, the actual work could not start since several technical sanctions were pending. Dudhali STP was scheduled to be completed by June and now KMC is struggling to meet the deadline.

The project is important to curb the pollution of Rankala Lake

as sewage water from Sarnaik Vasahat, Old Vashi Naka, Sham Society and Shivaji Peth will be collected by drainage pipeline from these areas and carried to the Dudhali STP. Approximately, 2.5 MLD sewage water gets discharged directly into the lake.