

Written by Administrator
Friday, 17 July 2009 12:19 -

The Times of India 17.07.2009 **Garbage-free Patna within a year: Deputy CM** PATNA: Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi promised a garbage-free Patna within a year. "You will start feeling the difference from November," he informed the state assembly on Thursday while replying to a three-hour debate on the urban development department's budgetary demand of over Rs 1754 crore for the financial year 2009-10. The demand was passed by a voice vote.

Modi said that the main problem in removing garbage in Patna was the lack of trucks and other instruments. "We have allotted Rs 16.24 crore for purchasing 64 trucks, 36 tractors, tippers, loaders and other instruments this year which would be visible very soon," he said. He announced that the Patna Municipal Corporation (PMC) officials and employees would be seen in uniform from August 1.

Modi also announced launching of door-to-door garbage collection service that will be outsourced. He said that land has been acquired for dumping the garbage.

Announcing sweeping changes in urban laws, Modi declared that the government would announce a vendor policy soon in which the practice of municipal bodies giving contracts to collect [taxes](#) from vendors will be abandoned and vendors and street hawkers would give a token licence fee directly to municipal bodies.

The deputy CM said that zones would be earmarked for street vendors where they could do their business. Welfare schemes for rickshaw and cart-pullers would be announced soon, he said, adding that the government would construct 10000 small shops on vacant municipal land across the state and lease it out to medium and small-time traders.

Modi also announced amendments in Rent Control Act and building bylaws. He said that instead of going to municipal bodies to get maps of buildings approved, the government would appoint certified architects who will pass the maps after taking a fee of Rs 500. He, however, warned that architects would be penalized Rs 50000 and awarded jail term for a year if it is found they passed the maps illegally.

Modi said that to increase the revenue collection of municipal bodies, the government would allow citizens to make a self-assessment of their houses and pay holding [taxes](#) accordingly. "There will be incentives for paying holding tax in advance and penalty in case of late payment," he stressed.

Modi also announced changes in rules and regulations for cinema halls. "Earlier, the licence and its renewal had to be done in Patna. Now the respective district magistrates would be assigned the job," he said.

He also announced over Rs 40 crore for developing 212 ghats located on the [banks](#) of Ganga in the state, formation of a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for developing the Ganga river front and construction of a road along Saidpur Nala right up to Gaighat, which would serve as a parallel road to the congested Ashok Rajpath. He also announced building of a parallel road in the by-pass area.

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Modi announced that the government would also bring a Town Planning Bill to stress on planned township development. He also announced over Rs 150 crore for development of parks, including 28 in Patna.