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## Councilors demands separation of engineering and town planning sections

KOZHIKODE: Councillors in the Kozhikode city corporation have demanded the formation of separate engineering and town planning sections to avoid delay in the execution of ward-level public works. The councillors have alleged that the merger of the two sections in 2005 had delayed execution of public works comprising construction and repair of roads in the ward, construction of drainages and covering open slabs and road surface improvements works.

Councillor Zachariah P Hussein said that they need to wait for months to prepare the estimate and supervision as the works of town planning and engineering section being done by the same overseer.

"The delay in getting permission and preparing project estimate created problems to the councillors," he said.

Councillor K Sathyanathan said that though he has brought the issue to the attention of the mayor through a calling attention motion, a decision in this regard is yet to be made.

"The councillors have been forced to run behind the overseers in the corporation to prepare estimate and to carry out field visit as they also need to accord permission to building plans after the site visit. Only the separation of two departments will put an end to the existing problem," he said.

Meanwhile, mayor MK Premajam said that it was merged

during the tenure of the previous government. "Staff shortage is the main constrain for the separation of the merged sections. At present there is a delay in carrying out the ward-level works as the same staff needs to simultaneously carry out the works of the town planning and engineering section," said the mayor.