

The Times of India 22.08.2013

Mundamveli sewage plant awaits govt nod

KOCHI: The Kochi corporation is awaiting the nod from the empowered committee, headed by urban affairs minister Manajalamkuzhy Ali, to start work on the Rs 95-crore sewage treatment plant proposed at Mundamveli.

"The work of laying sewer lines will start after we get the nod. All procedures prior to awarding tenders have been completed. We expect to complete the tender for the project by next month," said corporation health standing committee chairman T K Asharaf.

The proposed plant will have a capacity to treat 100 million litres a day (MLD) of sewage. Once the project gets rolling, sewage from houses, shops and commercial establishments in Fort Kochi and Mattancherry will be sent to the plant through sewer lines.

For this, a 20km-long high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipeline has to be laid. "Besides five pumping stations, we have to construct sumps every 30 metres in the middle of roads. As per the schedule, the work can be completed in two years," said Kerala Sustainable Urban Development Project (KSUDP) project manager Abdul Jaleel.

Earlier, the corporation's efforts to construct the plant at Mundamveli had faced a setback following objections raised by the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA) and pollution control board. Work was suspended after complaints that the project violated Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms.

"Now we have received clearances from KCZMA and PCB. Efforts are on to vacate the stay secured by a citizen against carrying out the work," Jaleel said.

As of now, the 4 MLD treatment plant at Elamkulam is the only sewage treatment plant under Kochi corporation limits. The plant, constructed over four decades ago, is also not functioning properly.