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Tax collection tops corporation's agenda, while mosquito menace takes a backseat

COIMBATORE: The untimely appearance of a corporation vehicle with a fogging machine does not necessarily mean the local body is going all out to control the mosquito menace. These corporation vehicles are working extra time only to encourage the public to pay property dues on time.

On Tuesday, one of these vehicles fitted with loudspeakers negotiated every nook and corner in Peelamedu area during the day making announcements. "I have never seen this vehicle in our area to carry out fogging activities. But when it comes to revenue generation the civic body seems to go the extra mile," said R Raveendran of Residents Awareness Association of Coimbatore ([RAAC](#)).

The corporation has five vehicles mounted with fogging machines for carrying out mosquito control activities in the five zones. These vehicles are fitted with loudspeakers and they traverse each zone reminding the public to pay their property tax dues to avoid penalties. "This does not affect mosquito control measures as fogging is usually carried out only in the evening," a sanitary inspector said. At the end of every financial year the corporation employs all available vehicles to

reach the public, he added.

Though officials claimed the fogging vehicles would start fogging activities by 5 pm in their respective zones, residents challenge this claim. They allege that mosquito control activities have taken a backseat as the corporation utilizes these vehicles primarily to aid revenue generation rather than conduct fogging activities. To begin with, each zone has 20 wards and 1 vehicle is far from adequate to complete activities in all 20 wards.

Informed sources reveal that the corporation is doing whatever it can to retain the best corporation award received from the state government last year, primarily for achieving 87 % tax collections in 2011-12, the highest among urban local bodies in Tamil Nadu. As of Wednesday, the corporation has collected only 78 % tax dues while the target for 2012-13 financial year is set at 90 %. "No one in the state has achieved 90 % tax collections and with more than 15 days remaining for the end of this financial year we hope to achieve the target comfortably," said a senior official.