

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation's waste treatment plant to take on debris

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BHUBANESWAR: In an effort to curb piling up of construction debris on the roads, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has decided to set up a waste treatment plant here.

BMC sources said around 200 metric tonnes of such waste is generated in the city every day. According to construction and demolition waste management rules, 2016, waste generated through construction, repair, re-modelling and demolition of private and government establishments, households, roads and drains should be handled in such a way as to avoid littering.

BMC sources said the processed waste can be reused for construction purposes. Since the BMC is already spending money to carry the waste engaging tractors and manpower, it will be able to monetize the waste by establishing the plant. According to preliminary discussion, the plant will be set up on public-private-partnership mode. "The BMC will sell the recycled waste, which will be used for different construction purposes," said a BMC spokesperson.

Earlier, BMC commissioner Krishan Kumar had written to the national Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to remove construction debris from both sides of the roads. "The debris exposes citizens to grave danger. The waste is also likely to cause accidents. Moreover, it also creates negative impression about civic management of the city," Kumar wrote in the letter.

BMC sources said the reuse of such waste will significantly reduce the dependence of people on natural resources like sand.

"The efficacy of recycled waste has been proved in Delhi and other cities. The plant will help restore the river beds on the outskirts of the city, which are being exploited for drawing sand for construction purposes," a BMC officer said.

A request for proposal from private parties to set up the plant is likely to be floated soon. The corporation has already given the go-ahead to the project. The civic body has also identified two sites for dumping of surplus waste. The sites are located in Patia and Kargil Basti.

"The dumping of waste will also help fill the craters created due to mining in laterite mines, which are located on the outskirts of the city," another BMC source said.