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“City stinks as garbage remains piled up for days”

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City stinks as garbage remains piled up for days

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Chennai: Greater Chennai Corporation promises a clean city under Singara Chennai 2.0, but garbage still piles up for days in designated corners.

There's a spot behind the 7H bay at the bus depot in Mogappair East under Zone 7, another on Elayamudali Street in Tondiarpet in Zone 4, and on Cemetery Road in Royapuram in Zone 5, and near Pencil Factory in Mint. At all these places, overflowing bins and mounds of garbage remain uncleared for 2-3 days.

"This has been the norm even during the previous government and it is continuing," said R Raman of Panner Nagar Welfare Association in Mogappair.

While the door-to-door conservancy workers collect garbage daily, they drop it at the resource recovery centre (a common point from various wards) for the compactor vehicle to shift to the segregation units. However, this does not happen every day. The solid waste management rules say garbage cannot be left uncollected on the roads overnight.

This practice is mainly in zones maintained directly by the GCC and not in zones serviced by the private contractor. Several corporation supervisors from Zone 5 and 7, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told TOI that on days when the garbage load is heavy, the compactor vehicles may need to make multiple trips, but do not. A sanitary supervisor in zone 7 said there are also delays because of a shortage of compactor vehicles.

In the Ambattur, Tondiarpet, and Royapuram zones, there is no specific place to keep the garbage temporarily. So conservancy workers pile up the garbage on the road.

Jayaram Venkatesan, secretary of anti-corruption NGO Arappor Iyakkam, said if the notes maintained by the GCC received the same finding as the privatised zones, there won't be irregularities in waste collection.

"The civic body must abide by solid waste management norms. Even in privatised zones, the garbage is only being displaced. Does segregation and recycling happen," he asked. Garbage is being dumped in the Pallikarai marshland and announced waste segregation initiatives were never carried out, he pointed out.

Officials from the solid waste management department said such irregularities occur when they are short-staffed. There could be delays in the collection when staff is on leave. On normal days, it is collected within a day. We will look into the irregularities, said an official.

MAJOR CHALLENGE

CONSERVANCY STAFF STRENGTH IN 15 ZONES

Permanent	5,597
Non-master roll	523
NOLM	3,891
Outsourced	13,147
TOTAL WORKFORCE	23,161 people
OVERALL WASTE GENERATION	6,267 MT

Source: Chennai Corporation

TRASH MOUNTAIN: Garbage dumped in an empty plot of land at Iyyappanthangal

News Item in The Times of India newspaper, Chennai Edition dated 03rd December 2021

CHENNAI: Greater Chennai Corporation promises a clean city under Singara Chennai 2.0, but garbage still piles up for days in designated corners. There's a spot behind the 7H bay at the bus depot in Mogappair East under Zone 7, another on Elayamudali Street in Tondiarpet in Zone 4, and on Cemetery Road in Royapuram in Zone 5, and near Pencil Factory in Mint. At all these places, overflowing bins and mounds of garbage remain uncleared for 2-3 days.

"This has been the norm even during the previous government and it is continuing," said R Raman of Panner Nagar Welfare Association in Mogappair. While the door-to-door conservancy workers collect garbage daily, they drop it at the resource recovery centre (a common point from various wards) for the compactor vehicle to shift to the segregation units. However, this does not happen every day. The solid waste management rules say garbage cannot be left uncollected on the roads overnight. This practice is mainly in zones maintained directly by the GCC and not in zones serviced by the private contractor. Several corporation supervisors from Zone 5 and 7, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told TOI that on days

when the garbage load is heavy, the compactor vehicles may need to make multiple trips, but do not. A sanitary supervisor in zone 7 said there are also delays because of a shortage of compactor vehicles. In the Ambattur, Tondiarpet, and Royapuram zones, there is no specific place to keep the garbage temporarily. So conservancy workers pile up the garbage on the road.

Jayaram Venkatesan, convenor of anti-corruption NGO Arappor Iyakkam, said if the zones maintained by the GCC received the same funding as the privatized zones, there won't be irregularities in waste collection. "The civic body must abide by solid waste management norms. Even in privatized zones, the garbage is only being displaced. Does segregation and recycling happen," he asked. Garbage is being dumped in the Pallikaranai marshland and announced waste segregation initiatives were never carried out, he pointed out. Officials from the solid waste management department said such irregularities occur when they are short-staffed. "There could be delays in the collection when staff is on leave. On normal days, it is collected within a day. We will look into the irregularities," said an official.