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MCD to plant 10 lakh trees, shrubs

NEW DELHI: To ensure a `greener look' for the city during the Commonwealth Games 2010, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has been entrusted with the task of planting 10 lakh trees, shrubs etc on main roads, central verges, flyovers and roads leading to Games stadia and other venues. The total cost of carrying out this landscaping work will be Rs 7.42 crore.

However, leader of the House Subhash Arya has asked the Delhi government to release Rs 50 crore more for horticulture works.

Said an MCD official: "Parks have already been developed under flyovers at Moti Nagar, Janakpuri, Zakhira and work is on at Patel Nagar, Sewa Nagar, Defence Colony, Tilak Nagar, Ashok Vihar, Lothian Bridge, Calcutta Bridge and railway-underbridge at Patparganj, Badarpur etc."

Meanwhile, traffic circles have also been developed at Pusa, Rani Jhansi Road, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Tulsi Marg, Deshbandhu Gupta Road and Lodhi Road. Central verges where work will begin include the ones near Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Gate, GK-1, Lodhi Road, Bhishma Pitamaha Marg, East of Kailash, Pankha Road, Jail Road, Tamil Sangam Marg, Madhuban to Patparganj Dairy etc.

The civic agency claimed that it will lay special emphasis on development of historical and other important gardens such as Roshanara Bagh, Kudsia Bagh, Ajmal Khan Park, Shaheedi Park, Indraprastha Park and Rajiv Gandhi Smriti Van. Said Arya: "We will develop Welcome Lake near Shahdara before commencement of the Commonwealth Games. We will develop fruit and flower gardens in an area of 31 acres. It will be developed as picnic spot with provisions for boating, skating rings, jogging tracks etc." MCD is also trying to make

sanitary landfill sites green. Plantation has been initiated at a number of SLF sites.

MCD has 14,636 parks spread over an area of 5,560 acres. Of these, 5,600 are ornamental parks, 8,733 ordinary parks, 4,70 children's parks and 26 women's parks. The civic agency is also trying to develop herbal parks now.