

The Times of India 12.03.2013

Deficit budget for Madurai, corp'n confident of surplus

MADURAI: The city corporation on Monday presented its annual budget for the year 2013-14 with a deficit of Rs 11.03 crore. Corporation mayor, V V Rajan Chellappa presented the budget estimating the total income at Rs 694.88 crore against an expenditure of Rs 705.91 crore with Rs 11.03 crore deficit.

Talking about the budget, Rajan Chellappa said the deficit had been estimated on scrutiny of total income and expenditure of all funds for the fiscal. "The net deficit estimated in the previous fiscal was Rs 9.22 crore but it turned surplus at the year end with Rs 7.39 crore. Likewise, the net deficit for the year 2013-14 will also turn out to be surplus by augmenting various sources of revenue by getting guidance from the [taxation](#) and [finance committee](#)," he said.

When contacted later, corporation commissioner, R Nanthagopal said revenue items such as property tax and auction of buildings greatly contributed to turn the deficit budget of 2012-13 into surplus. In the same way, the deficit budget for the present fiscal will also turn surplus since there is scope for many revenue items in the corporation, he commented.

Even as the budget meeting commenced, DMK councillors clad in black shirts walked out protesting that they were not given a prelude copy of the budget. They threw out the budget copies in the council hall and staged a walkout. Even when they were protesting, Rajan Chellappa threatened them that they will be barred from the council if they repeat the walkouts, which received wide applause from the AIADMK councillors. However, the DMK councillors boycotted the budget meeting.

CPM councillor, M Chellam during the budget meeting insisted that the prelude of budget should be shared among the councillors ahead of the budget session. The budget cannot be discussed in a constructive manner if the copy is not shared ahead of the session, she told the council. "No proper discussions are happening on the corporation budget and I have stressed the demand last year also," she later said.

Unlike the regular council sessions where zone chairmen used to consume much of the council time discussing various issues, they made their speech shorter this time as they had no clue about the budget. Even the AIADMK councillors did not analyse the budget during the meeting. Quite occupied with the 'AMMA thittam', the corporation introduced this year, they were seen praising the civic body for drafting such scheme.