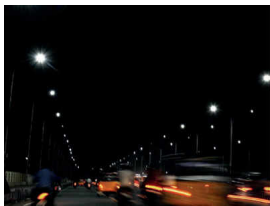


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Centralised system to help Chennai corporation monitor 2.8 lakh LED streetlights



CHENNAI: The city corporation has inched closer towards implementing a centralised control and monitoring system for the 7,077 feeder boxes and 2.8 lakh LED street lights connected in the city.

The civic body has received technical bids from service providers last week, after tenders were floated for setting up the system two months ago.

The project, if implemented, will help in better monitoring of feeder boxes even in remote locations and will help the civic body attend to faults immediately, thereby improving service, officials said. The tentative cost of the project is ₹ 48 crore, of which the civic body has been sanctioned ₹ 14.07 crore under the Nirbhaya fund.

The feeder pillar boxes are currently provided with automatic timer-based on/ off switches. The street lights too are switched on and turned off at scheduled timings. “But the functioning of these switching points have to be done manually. This system will help in monitoring of the switching points from one location,” an engineer with the electrical department said.

The engineer also pointed out that changes in the scheduling of on/off of the lights will have to be done directly at the feeder box only and due to frequent operation over a period of time, the timer loses accuracy.

“This is another reason why different set of street lights switch on and off at different timings. For instance, in some areas, street lights would not have switched on even after it gets dark while in some areas they are on before daylight fades,” a senior official with city corporation said. Further, the switch on/ off time for streetlights varies across the year, depending on the sunlight intensity.

To make these changes, workers will have to go to the feeder boxes. “By group monitoring, we ensure that all lights go on at the same time and do not have depend on a field worker for that,” the official added.

The system will also help the electrical department monitor faults in streetlights and attend to them before they are raised by the public. This group monitoring and control centre will be integrated with the

command and control centre of the city corporation, which is expected to be up and running by January next year.

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