

The Times of India 20.11.2009

Sewage treatment plant in Assembly complex to save water

Vivek Narayanan, TNN 20 November 2009, 06:55am IST

CHENNAI: The Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) coming up inside the new Tamil Nadu Assembly complex in the Omandurar Government Estate on Anna Salai will help save more than 2 lakh litres of water a day. The treated effluent will be used to water the gardens spread over nearly three lakh sqft and reduce dependence on Metrowater or groundwater.

The new assembly complex, set to be a landmark, will lead by example in the area of water conservation. The rainwater harvesting structures there will store 1.2 lakh litres while the STP, likely to come up on the Sivananda Salai side, will treat 2,50,000 litres of water everyday.

"For the remaining area (other than the three lakh sqft of gardens), we will depend on rainwater harvesting. Thus, the need to purchase water or use groundwater or Metrowater can be avoided," said K Senthil Manivanan, project coordinator, Archvista Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd, the firm in charge of setting up the STP and rainwater harvesting structures.

The STP, costing nearly Rs 50 lakh, will be approximately 20 m-long, 8m-wide and 4m-deep. "The treated effluent will adhere to the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board norms. The water let out after treatment will have a PH value ranging between 6.5 and 5.5, the bacteria level will be 10 milligram per litre, the chlorine level 100 milligram per litre and suspended solids less than 10 milligram," said Senthil.

Sewage water will first enter the collection tank and then a pumping chamber. From there, it will be led to aeration and settling chambers for removal of sludge. The clear water will be then be allowed to flow into disinfection and filtration tanks. Finally, treated effluent will collect in a tank.

"Even the sludge will not be discarded. It will be used as manure for the soil," said Senthil.

With chief minister M Karunanidhi wanting to have the next budget session in the new Legislative Assembly, construction is expected to be completed by March 2010. The assembly complex, spread over an area of 86,000 sq m, is being built at a cost of Rs 425 crore. Adjacent to it will come up the new secretariat complex, covering 69,400 sqm and costing Rs 280 crore. The STP will cater to both buildings.

The secretariat complex will also have chargers for electric vehicles. "This is part of a green building' initiative," said a senior government official.