

SEWAGE TREATMENT

Make-shift plants for clean Smart City

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bhubaneswar

THE Smart City will soon have make-shift and portable mini Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) at five different places across the city for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage. If everything goes as planned the mini STPs will be made available at Jharpada and Gadakana inside the temporary transit station near Sainik School, Ghatikia and Basuaghai for better septage management.

After a review meeting for fleet management of cesspool vehicles in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) area, an official said one Sainath Fabric Care Pvt Ltd (SFCPL) has been selected to transport the collected septage to the waste treatment plant which is expected to be functional within two months.

"The bidder has also proposed to set up the make-shift portable mini STPs at five places for which it has sought BMC to provide 1,200 sq feet land at each location," he said.

While the urban local body would help in getting power connection besides taking steps for providing land, the SFCPL would obtain statutory permission and clearances from pollution control board and other agencies required for setting up the temporary STPs.

It was decided at the review meeting that BMC would inform all commercial establishments, hospitals, hotels and apartments about SFCPL's initiative for septage management and conduct awareness campaigns for smooth management of the operation.

The BMC will also write to police and traffic authorities for free move-

ment of cesspool vehicles. With a formal approval from the BMC, the operator can put civic body logo on the vehicles for better identification. The cesspool operation is likely to start within next two months.

However, planning for mini STPs was necessitated as the laying of underground sewerage pipeline by Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board (OWSSB) is getting delayed due to several unavoidable circumstances. The work may take more than seven months to be completed and operationalised.

"Six new cesspool emptier vehicles with a collective capacity of 3,000 kl, which are now available with the BMC, will be handed over to SFCPL and those will be engaged until the city gets such facilities of STPs under OWSSB," the officer added.

