

NMC's contract staff to get hefty wage hike

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Nagpur: Around 10,000 workers engaged by private companies executing Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) works have much to cheer. They will get one-and-a-half times more daily wages soon. However, the cash-strapped civic body has much to worry as this will cost it around Rs150 crore.

The office of additional labour commissioner issued a letter dated March 19 to the civic body, which was received by the latter on March 21. Corporator Praful Gudadhe said in a press conference on Tuesday that NMC will also have to give arrears to all workers. "NMC had estimated the cost of work orders as per circular issued by the state government six years ago.

Government had revised the daily wages of workers on February 24, 2015. NMC did not follow the new circular. I had raised the issue in general body meeting on March 18. NMC additional municipal commissioner Nayana Gunde spoke to the office of additional labour commissioner, which issued a letter passing strictures on NMC for not following the government norms. NMC was directed to pay arrears with effect from February 24, 2015, and increase daily wages immediately," he said.

Gudadhe said NMC will face expense of Rs150 crore, including around Rs75 crore arrears. "Some 600 workers with OCW, 1,492 with Kanak Resources, 421 with security companies, 4,500 aiwajdars, 1,580 with Vansh Nimay etc total up to around 10,000 daily wagers. NMC will have to revise work order amount of all these companies and pay them accordingly. NMC will also be required to ensure that all these private companies pay their workers through cheques and confirm the wage is received by the workers," he said.

Gudadhe added NMC will have to pay ten times penalty in case it does not follow the circular, besides prosecution of officials. "I will monitor and also urge unions to see whether private companies pay their workers the revised daily wage or not," he said.