

SAFAI WORKERS COMPLAIN OF BEING PAID IN OLD NOTES

By Tanvi Deshpande, Mumbai Mirror | Nov 25, 2016, 02.42 AM IST

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Despite the government's demonetisation drive curbing employers from disbursing salaries in old currency notes, around 300 conservancy workers from Borivali have complained that their contractors have not complied with it, and may even be using them to get rid of their black money.

While some workers refused to collect their payment, many have accepted it out of desperation. "When the contractor gave me wages in old notes, I insisted on being paid in new currency. Why should I have to stand in queue?" said Naresh Thoparapu, who has not been paid yet.

However, with no other source of income or savings, some workers couldn't resist.

"The contractor told us that online transfer was not working and that he did not have enough cheque leaves to for workers. Finally we accepted whatever he gave," said Dandapani Velankanni, another worker.

Meanwhile, workers' unions are miffed with the contractors.

"There are around 300 workers in this ward (R-Central) alone. Considering that each of these workers earn Rs 7,000-8,000 per month, we are talking about Rs 24 lakhs. If all this is black money, it is a serious offence. We will file a police complaint against the contractors on Friday," said Milind Ranade, general secretary of Kachra Vahtuk Shramik Sangh (Garbage Transporters' Union).

Ranade claimed that his union, which represents around 8,000 workers across the city, has so far

received complaints only from Borivali.

BMC officials have said that these workers should not have accepted the notes if they were in old notes.

“If they have signed the receipts, there is little the police can do. We are out of the picture,” said an official from R - Central ward.

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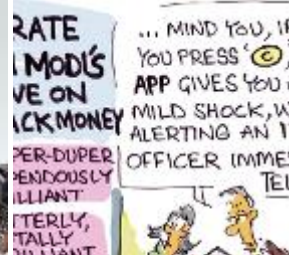
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