

.SALIGAO WASTE TREATMENT PLANT FUNCTIONING SMOOTHLY

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The Goa Waste Management Corporation has informed that, integrated Solid Waste Management (SWM) facility in Saligao scientifically manages the waste, as per the waste management rules. It is the endeavor of the State Government that each and every local body/Municipality segregates its waste and delivers the segregated waste to every processing facility in segregated form. As per the SWM rules 2016, it is essential that waste is collected, transported and treated in a segregated manner. As such GWMC follows the SWM rules 2016 as per the law and operates the plant accordingly and accepts the segregated waste. Though the plant was designed for mixed waste as well as for segregated waste over the past 3 years percentage of segregated waste has increased besides the quantum of biodegradable waste has also increased.

As such the acceptance of only segregated waste should be lauded which is in line with the order of the High Court of Bombay at Goa in its order dated July 11, 2019. The non-biodegradable/non-recyclable waste and contaminated non -biodegradable waste which remains after segregation is sent for co-processing to the cement factories which is as per SWM rules 2016. Mixed waste is normally deposited by the waste collected from public places/littering spots/ beaches and is processed using Organic extruder. The waste quality from the beaches has improved and the quantum of mixed waste has reduced. State Government and GWMC has put in lot of efforts in ensuring segregation and the quantum of segregated waste has increased tremendously.

On many occasions false complaints of stench have been reported and when the staff of the plant and GWMC has visited such areas immediately, no foul odour/stench is noticed. This has been verified on telephonic complaints even at late nights.

As regards to the issue of commercial establishments and complexes treating their own waste, it is the mandate of respective local bodies/GSPCB, in terms of Solid Waste Management Rules 2016.

Further it is informed that, no waste which has been brought to the plant is dumped elsewhere. The waste lying outside the plant premises is the one brought from Aradi dump which is being remediated. Major

part of the same is remediated and the remaining portion of the same will be remediated after the end of monsoons.

The work concerning Saligao Plant in regards to expansion of the plant capacity which is necessitated, as more segregated waste is coming to the plant. Also collection of waste has improved for which capacity has to be augmented from 100 Tons to 250 Tons. Waste generation is a dynamic process and quantum of waste has now increased even of the 25 captive Panchayats besides that of highway waste collection and beach waste collection.

The plant is designed for 100 Tons per day (TPD) capacity and for treating upto 125 TPD within the terms and conditions of concessionaire agreement. Since initially the collection of waste by Panchayats was very low and in that as the component of wet waste was within limits, it was possible to handle it. Now the capacity is augmented by Bio-Press additionally, to meet the capacity requirement. The plant is functioning well and anybody can visit the plant to verify it.

The additional amount required is for expanding the capacity of the plant upto 250 TPD and not for any repair or replacement of existing machinery which may be noted.

Various issues/queries were raised on the operation of Saligao Waste Treatment Facility (SWM) and its proposed expansion.

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