

BMC hikes property tax target to 270 cr

BY A STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

WORRIED over the possibility of not meeting the estimated revenue target, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Thursday asked the civic collection and assessment department to collect additional Rs 270 crore in property tax before the end of the 2009-10 financial year.



With hardly two months left for the closure of the financial year 2009-2010, the BMC circular to collect more in property tax has raised the hackles of officials of the concerned department. Stating that the target would be impossible to meet in the remaining two months, an official from the collection and assessment department said, "Due to the economic slowdown, it has become difficult even to meet the yearly target? How can we collect additional Rs 270 crore?"

The BMC had pegged the revised estimates of property tax collection for 2009-2010 at around Rs 2,450 crore. Last year's target was Rs 1,848 crore and the estimates for the next financial year is Rs 2,800 crore. The recession period has badly hit BMC's octroi collections, the main source of civic revenue. While there was ten per cent rise expected in the octroi revenue, the civic body has managed to just surpass the yearly target of Rs 4,300 crore.

Due to the financial crunch, the BMC has directed all the departmental heads of various revenue departments to find new sources of income. However, officials are complaining that they have not been taken into confidence while determining the targets of their departments.