

BMC spending **your money** on unnecessary projects

ON RECORD Chief accountant alleges contractor-official nexus in note

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MUMBAI: In an internal note that alleges embezzlement and financial mismanagement, the civic body's chief accountant (finance) Ram Dhas has told municipal commissioner Subodh Kumar that a nexus of contractors and civic officials is pocketing the taxpayers' money by "generating" work where there is no need and spending funds without visible results.

The note, submitted last week, throws light on why infrastructure and civic amenities in Mumbai are in such a mess despite the fact that the BMC is spending more than Rs 20,000 crore of taxpayers' money running the city.

The note alleges that often the contractors create work and prepare estimates, which get approved by officials working



TAKING NOTE

The note, prepared by the BMC's chief accountant (finance), Ram Dhas, alleges that contractors, civic officials and corporators work in collusion — contractors generate work where there is no need and prepare

estimates, which are approved. Though huge expenditure is incurred on petty works, no visible results are seen.

This is the 2nd note sent in the past 7 months by a senior BMC official, raising concerns about irregularities and corruption.

in connivance with them. "Though huge expenditure is seen incurred [sic] on such petty works, no visible results are seen," Dhas' note said.

The same contractors have been carrying out civic works for years together; the note stated, adding that these contractors deliberately submit bills late to escape scrutiny.

"This note was brought out for improving the state of affairs. It was intended at ensuring that civic projects are carried out more effectively and money is spent in a better manner," said Mohan Adtani, additional municipal commissioner. However, he refused to comment on the allegations made.

» CONTINUED ON, P5