

Ombudsman directs corpn to publish details of resolutions in govt website

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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TAMIL Nadu Local Bodies Ombudsman directed the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation to upload the resolutions that were passed by their council in the last 14 months and kept as undisclosed in the official website.

Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation has been maintaining a separate official website to announce its programmes. However, it is not active in recent days, making it difficult for the people to know the affairs of the corporation. Particularly, resolutions which were passed by the corporation council are not available in the website.

"Coimbatore city municipal corporation has been announcing various high-budget schemes. However, they are not revealing it in the website, plus they are not ready to give the details of the resolutions through the Right to Information Act. So

we had filed a petition to Tamil Nadu Local Bodies Ombudsman on March 2018 to make the functioning of the corporation transparent," said social activist SP Thiyagarajan.

Based on the complaint, Tamil Nadu Local Bodies Ombudsman conducted the investigation with the petitioner and corporation officials. Finally, it has ordered the corporation to upload the resolutions which were passed from July 2017 till date. Though the order was issued on August 20, the petitioner received the copy only on Tuesday.



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S P Thiyagarajan, social activist

"During the investigation, corporation commissioner said that earlier they were not able to upload the details of the resolution due to the introduction of a new software. Then it was delayed by the tax reviewing process and later it was stopped for the ward delimitation and the tax collection process. Those reasons were examined by the Ombudsman. However, they said that the reasons were not acceptable. Besides, we have asked the copies of the resolution taken through the RTI Act. But they charged excess amount. These were clearly mentioned in the petition," said Thiyagarajan.

Meanwhile, the officials claimed that they were maintaining transparency with respect to council resolutions. "However, it is taking some time owing to workloads. Now we have been working to sort out the issue. The website of the Smart city project will be opened soon," said officials.