

You may no longer find plastic bottles littering public places

WASTE MANAGEMENT MTDC plans to install flaking machines to avoid plastic going to water bodies

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MUMBAI: If the idea mooted by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) gets through, the sight of empty water bottles thrown around at public places may become a passé.

The state-run corporation has proposed to install processing machines that reduce the bottles to flakes and can be used in recycling of plastic so that these bottles are not dumped at landfill sites or make their way to water bodies.

The first such machine is likely to be installed at Mantralaya, state government's headquarters.

The MTDC has sought permission from the state public works department for installation of the machine, sized equal to a refrigerator, at Mantralaya building citing huge disposal of the empty water bottles at the state headquarters.

The machine compresses the bottles to flake, which is sold at Rs 40 a kg in the open market, re-

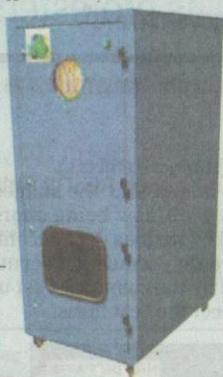
WHAT ARE FLAKING MACHINES

Flaking machines, sized equal to the refrigerator, crush, compress the plastic bottles into granules

The flake produced is recycled into the market for the production of other plastic products

The indigenously manufactured machines cost Rs 2 lakh and serve the purpose of reduce, recycle, re-use to save environment

The idea behind installing the machines at public places is to dispose of the plastic waste at its source



used for various plastic items. The corporation has planned to install more such kiosks at bus stands and railway stations where the disposal of the empty packaged water bottles is very huge.

"We installed one such machine at the Elephanta caves about two months ago and the response is encourag-

ing. The efforts not only help us in reducing pollution but also generate employment and help government authorities to keep the premises clean. Besides the sites owned by us, we are also approaching other government agencies for the installation. Being a highly non-biodegradable material, the bottles disposed recklessly

About 20,000 tonnes of plastic waste is generated out of the water bottles usage in the railways every year

Rajdhani see disposal of about 1,500 every day

The railway ministry is reportedly thinking on the proposal positively

One kg of flake need about 50 empty bottles and fetch about Rs 40

The MTDC is also planning to purchase the empty bottles at Rs 20 a kg

cause pollution not only on land but in the water bodies. It is a serious concern for us," said Parag Jain Nannutia, the MD of the MTDC.

He said they are also encouraging the sellers of the empty bottle to approach them with their stock, which will be bought at Rs 20 a kg. Roughly 50 bottles make up a kg.

"We installed one such machine at the Elephanta caves about two months ago and the response is encouraging. The efforts not only help us in reducing pollution but also help government authorities to keep the premises clean. Besides the sites owned by us, we are also approaching other government agencies. The bottles disposed cause pollution not only on land but in the water bodies,"

PARAG JAIN NANNUTIA, the MD of the MTDC.

MTDC HAS SOUGHT PERMISSION FROM THE STATE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR INSTALLATION OF THE MACHINE AT THE MANTRALAYA BUILDING