

To,

Date: 30.07.12

The Municipal Commissioner,
PCMC

SWACH and KKPKP were approached by PCMC in 2009 to suggest a universal, user fee based door to door waste collection model.

Accordingly SWACH conferred with PCMC to develop a model based on the principles of

- long term sustainability (based on a reducing cost principle where the pay out for PCMC reduces each year so that over an 8 year period it can run solely on user fee charges)
- citizen participation via payment of user fees,
- integration of waste pickers,
- environmental protection due to higher resource recovery and
- Compliance with all existing State and Central government directives, rules, policies and laws related to SWM. (enclosed relevant govt guidelines)

SWACH has been operational in PCMC since October 2010, with 263 wastepicker members collecting waste from 2, 43, 000 households via 133 Tata Ace hoppers. Reports are submitted on an ongoing basis as per the requirements of PCMC in compliance with the MOU.

However since the inception of swach there have been many issues on which PCMC has not complied which have been brought to the notice of the administration on a regular basis. Furthermore in complete violation of the spirit of the original proposal, the Swach model as well as the MOU signed with us, PCMC entered into a 5 year contract with BVG in Oct 2011 for doorstep collection of waste in the 2 wards of B and C without charging user fees. PCMC has thereby created an unfair playing field by introducing a non user fee based, weight based system in 2 wards of the city. The 2 models of SWACH and BVG do not sit well together because citizens in 2 wards will not pay for a service that is provided free in 2 other wards. The progressive increase in numbers of people paying user fees is not possible any more.

We have also raised this entire matter in our last meeting with you on 22nd June 2012 where you gave us the assurance that your legal counsel along with ours would meet and come up with the solution to resolve the discrepancies between the two systems of operation within a period of 15 days. Our lawyer had this consultation with your legal counsel as per this time line and had given her suggestions but we have still not heard from your office despite it being almost a month after the preliminary meeting.

In addition to all of this Shri Amrutrao Sawant, Jt. Commissioner has issued a notice to SWACH on 14th July 2012 stating that workers are being treated unfairly and not paid wages and benefits. SWaCH is a wholly owned worker cooperative. Member workers are entitled to dividends based on profits. Further, news of notice has been leaked to the press which has given it wide publicity. This is unfair and a complete show of mistrust on the part of the PCMC.

The SWaCH model based on user fee recovery is not tenable in a situation where BVG will offer services paid for by the PCMC. SWaCH members have no recourse but to sign out of the MOU with PCMC and to pursue the legal processes to terminate the contract.

Protection of livelihoods and welfare of member workers is core to SWaCH. PCMC has expressed concern and commitment about the payment, conditions of work and welfare of workers. In view of this we urge/demand that PCMC ensures that SWaCH members are given work in any proposed waste collection model or elsewhere in the PCMC.

Sincerely,

Shabana Diler

CEO, Swach PCMC