

Will effluents be tackled fully under RFD plan, ask experts

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PUNE: The Pune Municipal Corporation's riverfront development project only has provisions of interceptor lines to take waste water to 11 proposed sewage treatment plants and won't fully tackle the problem of sewage discharge into the Mula and Mutha rivers, experts have asserted.

Environmentalist Priyadarshini Karve told TOI, "People believe that the riverfront development project (RFD) will ensure complete effluent treatment. However, the 11 sewage treatment plants (STPs) are a separate Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project, which is actually running at a sluggish pace. That, too, will ultimately discharge one-third of effluents into the rivers."

Expert Mukund Mavalankar said, "All waste water will not be treated. Only an interceptor sewer line, a means to divert sewage into the proposed STPs, will be put under the embankment."

A senior PMC official insisted that "the 11 STPs coming up under the JICA will take care of the problem of untreated sewage discharge. Interceptor drainage lines will carry the sewage to STPs for treatment."

Meanwhile, Mavalankar also said the interceptor lines will release wastewater beyond the STPs' capacity to treat

after the final barrage.

“The RFD project report says interceptors line will only take sewage to the nearest STPs for treatment. Even after the 11 STPs are made, nearly 40 per cent (597 MLD) of the total sewage will be let into the Mula-Mutha rivers untreated,” he added.

Shailaja Deshpande, founder-director of Jeevitnadi, said, “The real rejuvenation of rivers is possible if sewage generated will be treated 100 per cent with up to tertiary treatment capacity. The used water must be recycled and reused to fullest capacity. Clean water from dams must get released as environmental flows.”