

**Hon'ble Rural Development & Local Administration Minister**  
**inaugurated desilting equipment**

During the 2006-2007 Demand, the Hon'ble Rural Development & Local Administration Minister has announced that safety equipments will be procured and supplied to the sewer workers at a cost of Rs.3.00 crore. Accordingly these safety equipments are supplied to the sewer workers. In the current year budget, on 20.03.2008 the Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced that special equipments will be utilized in order to avoid the sewer workers entering into the manholes.

In Chennai city about 2,671 Km length of sewer main, about 77,081 manholes and 185 sewage pumping stations are in existence. To remove the silt and sand deposited in the above system Metrowater is proposed to introduce first time the desilting equipments in order to avoid the practice of man entering into the manhole/wells. The equipment can be used to desilt the manhole upto a depth of 32 feet. Further the silt removed will be collected in the collecting pan fixed in the vehicle and disposed off. By this, entering of workers into the manhole/well will be avoided.

Now as a first phase 3 equipments were purchased. The cost of one equipment is Rs.5,85,390/-. After assessing the performance of the equipment in three months, further equipments will be purchased and the workers entering into the manholes in Chennai city will be completely avoided. This will be gradually expanded to other Corporation & Municipalities.

On 21.04.2008 morning the Hon'ble Rural Development and Local Administration Minister has commissioned the equipment at wallajah road in Triplicane. Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department Thiru K. Deenabandu, I.A.S., Managing Director, Metro Water Thiru Shiv Das Meena, I.A.S., Executive Director Thiru S. Thangasamy, I.A.S., Finance Director, Thiru M. Karunanidhi, I&AS., Engineering Director Thiru D. Madavamoorthy, Chief Engineer (O&M) Thiru G. Elangovan were also present.

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