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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: BBMP - Joint Select Committee

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 23/9/20

BBMP wards
set to increase
to 250

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU 23/9/20

A Joint Select Committee of the state legislature, headed by S. Raghu, BJP MLA, has recommended increasing the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) wards from 198 to 250 in view of the increase in population and areas under the civic body's limits.

There is, however, no mention of the number of zonal divisions and increase in the term of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor in the report.

The committee, which held several meetings, submitted its brief special report to Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri on September 15, and tabled the report in the Assembly on Tuesday.

The Speaker has extended the term of the committee till November 10, 2020, to submit its final report.

The special report recommended amendment to Section 7 of the Karnataka Municipal Corporation (KMC) Act, 1976, to enable increasing the number of wards to 250.

The committee was established after a strong opposition from members of the ruling BJP when the BBMP Bill, 2020, was tabled during the budget session of the legislature in March.

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The amendment, which would enable the BBMP to come out of purview of the KMC Act, is aimed at bringing about comprehensive change in the administration and governance of the civic body.

The KMC Act was formulated 44 years ago and changes in the Bill are aimed at mobilising more taxes.

The Bill states that the KMC Act was inadequate in administrative and structural matters to govern Bengaluru as it provided limited flexibility and was a common legislation catering to nine smaller city corporations.

The proposed Bill is aimed at better coordination among civic agencies, such as BDA, BWSSB, Bescom, and BBMP. It is aimed at improving decentralisation, integration of public participation at various levels of municipal governance, and ensuring efficient decision making.

Mr. Raghu told media-persons that there was no question of postponing elections to the BBMP council, he added.