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## Bescom project: House committee warns of cable mafia

BENGALURU, DHNS

25/3/20

Wary of a 'mafia', the Legislature Committee on Government Assurances has warned of irregularities totaling to hundreds of crores in projects taken up by Bescom to lay high-tension/low-tension (HT/LT) cables underground or as aerial bunches.

The project is being implemented in four phases in Bengaluru city limits at a cost of Rs 5,325 crore.

The Committee, in its report tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, has recommended setting

up a coordination committee to implement the scheme and to avoid misuse of funds meant for the ambitious project.

"There is a big mafia behind laying of cables and underground drainage systems in Bengaluru," the Committee under BJP MLA K Raghupathy Bhat noted.

It recommended entrusting the maintenance of underground or aerial bunches of HT/LT cables for a period of five years to the same contractor who laid them.

Along with that, a coordination committee should also

be formed within BBMP limits so as to avoid misuse of funds worth hundreds of crores during the implementation of the project.

Under the first phase of the project, underground or aerial bunches of HT/LT will be laid in 15 sub-divisions of Bescom in the first phase, 14 in the second, 10 in third and 13 in the fourth. While works of first and second phases are under progress, tender process for phase three was complete and works are expected to be taken up shortly. Tender for fourth phase of the project is yet to be floated.