

Mumbai gets dirtiest water

BAD NEWS The area had the highest number of contamination cases at 1,176 out of 4,461 complaints BMC received across city and suburbs in the past year

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MUMBAI: Even as the death of 30-year-old Tara Maire, apparently due to contamination of drinking water has left many shaken, there's more bad news for Mumbaiites.

According to civic records obtained by Hindustan Times, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011, received 4,461 complaints about water contamination. Significantly, a majority of these complaints – a worrying 3,373 – came from the island city.

The western suburbs were a distant second with 824 complaints, while the eastern suburbs had 154 complaints.

Of all these complaints, the civic body attended to 4,377 complaints, leaving 84 complaints unattended to as on March 31, 2011.

The C ward alone consisting of areas like Kalbadevi, Marine Lines, Mumbadevi, Kumbharwada, Bhuleshwar, Dhobi Talao and Fanaswadi, saw almost a quarter of the total complaints being received – 1,176 in one year.

We have noticed that water contamination cases are on the rise these days, but we have no choice but to drink the same water. It is very difficult to drink bottled water every day.

AMOL KHARE, Byculla resident

house gullies are generally filthy, plus sewage lines run alongside. The island city has a vast network of old, corroded pipelines. Because of this corrosion, it's easier for sewage to enter the pipelines, and cause contamination. The dirty gullies also make detection of leaks difficult," Jalota said.

An official from the hydraulic engineer's department, not wishing to be named, said cleaning such house gullies was a problem. "It becomes very difficult to enter these house gullies, especially because locals keep throwing garbage, unmindful of our workers cleaning them. It has come to a point that our workers have become extremely reluctant about cleaning these gullies because they are continuously bom-

ABOUT THE CONTAMINATION

REASONS FOR CONTAMINATION



OLD PIPELINES: As the pipelines are more than 100 years old they are more susceptible to corrosion



BUILDING SUCTION TANKS: Once the BMC water reaches the housing society, the dirty suction tanks and overhead water tanks contaminate the water, leading to contaminated water in your taps



HOUSE GULLIES: Old buildings in south Mumbai have narrow gaps between them called gullies. All water pipelines pass through these gullies, which are generally filthy, in addition to sewage lines running alongside these

BMC'S CONTROL MEASURES



Has three control rooms in the city where people can register complaints about contamination and leakages in pipelines, which might result in contamination

WATER CONTAMINATION COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

4,461



COMPLAINTS ATTENDED

4,377

UNATTENDED

84

CONTAMINATION COMPLAINTS ACROSS THE CITY

SOUTH & CENTRAL MUMBAI

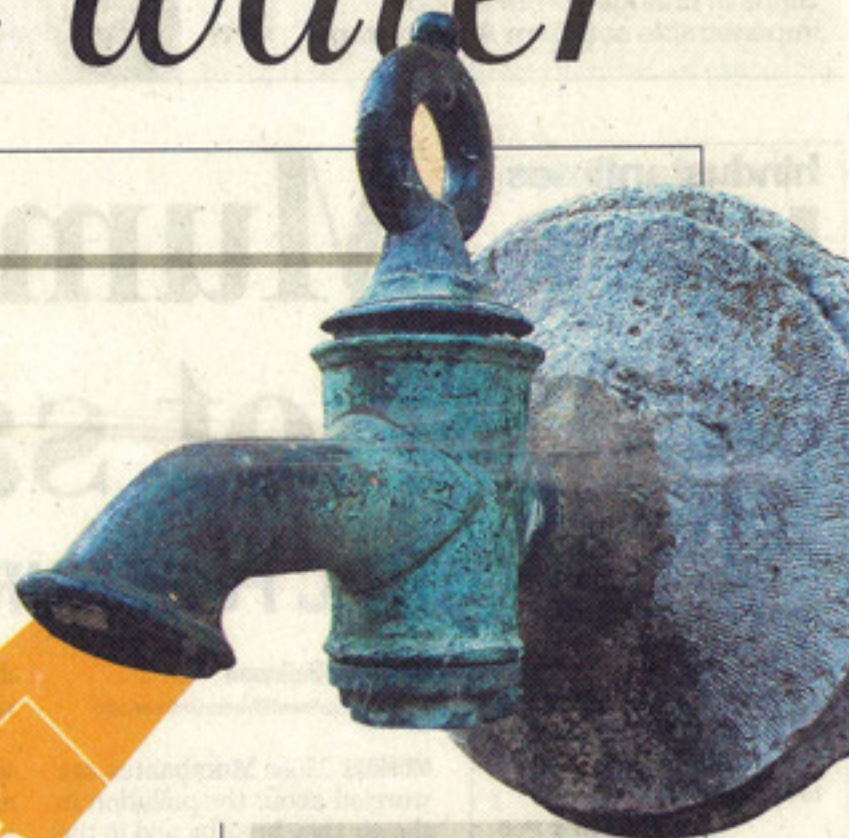
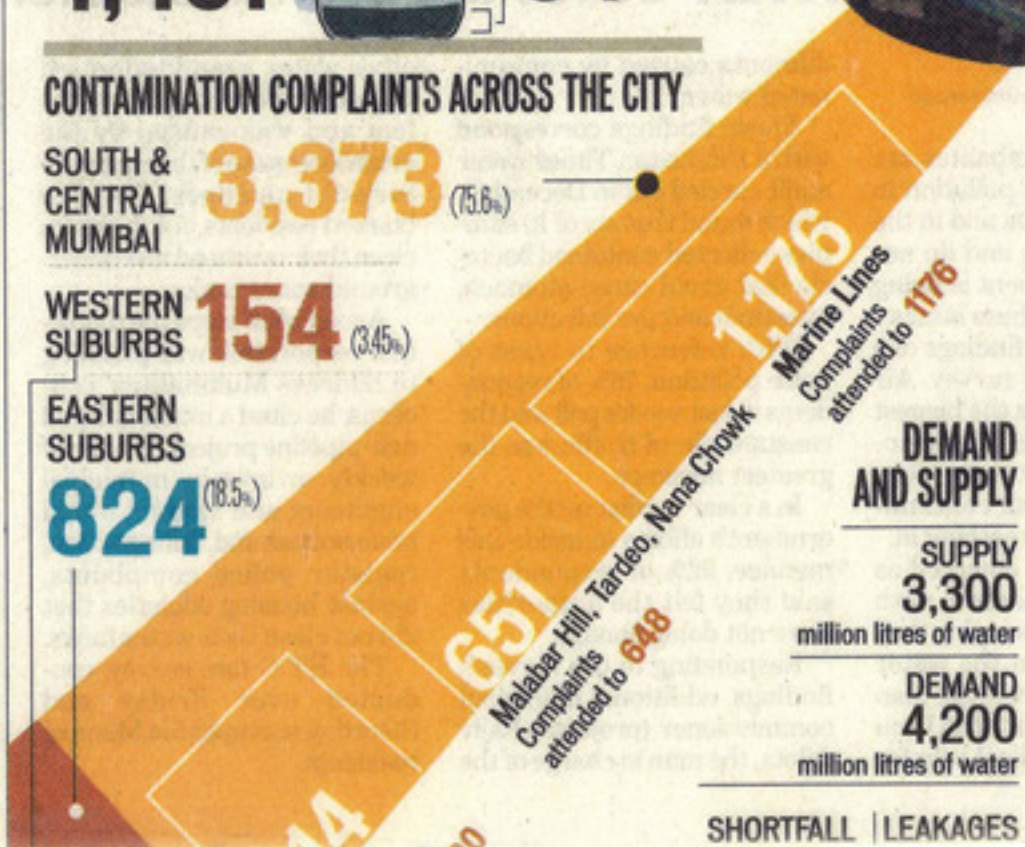
3,373 (75.6%)

WESTERN SUBURBS

154 (3.45%)

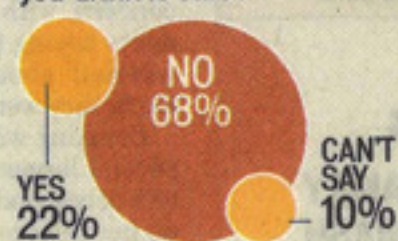
EASTERN SUBURBS

824 (18.5%)



ht-C fore survey

Do you think that the water you drink is safe?



Have you ever sought medical help for ailments related to polluted water?

DEMAND AND SUPPLY

SUPPLY

3,300

million litres of water

DEMAND

4,200

million litres of water

SHORTFALL | LEAKAGES