

the consequences of that," said chairman Arvind Shinde. deep water in the society park-

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Study had warned of drainage system failure

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THE study carried out by a private firm for PMC had given various suggestions to improve the condition of storm water drains in the city to avoid water logging

A STUDY conducted two years ago by technical consultants on the status of storm water drains in the city had clearly pointed out that of the 360 kms of nullahs in the city, at least 15 kms are blocked because of illegal constructions and other factors.

The study which was carried out by PriMove Infrastructure Development Consultants for the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) had given various suggestions to improve the condition of storm water drains in the city to avoid water log-

ging. Even as Phase I of the plan has been cleared through JNNURM funds with a seed capital of Rs 200 crore, of which Rs 35 crore has been received the PMC may look at revising the size of all the storm water drains.

Pune city has been divided into 23 basins, the work of five basins have been taken up for the

first phase—Baner, Wadgaonsheri, Kharadi, Kondhwa and Wadgaon Budruk.

City engineer Prashant Waghmare said that Monday's rainfall of 99.1 mm and heavy showers of about 62.5 mm rainfall in half an hour was definitely not a normal event for the city. "The storm water drains have been constructed considering the rainfall of an average of 70 mm. We will discuss

the plan of revising the structures," he said. With Mumbai recording 575 mm of rainfall on a day in 2005, the municipal corporation is planning to reconstruct the storm water drains for increasing the capacity. "We will appoint PriMove as consultants for another study for the revised plans," he said.

Director of Primove Infrastructure Development Consultants Ajit Oak said that the rapid urbanisation and intensity of the rain has definitely taken a toll of the storm water drains. "The existing nullahs are readied for 70 mm rainfall. If there is more intensity, we need to have increased capacity," he said.