

Dr. Kirit Somaiya

**B. Com., F.C.A. Ph. D
Ex - Member of Parliament**

All India Convenor : BJP Investors' Cell
Vice President : BJP - Maharashtra

November 7, 2005

Officer
Tree Authority
Mumbai

Dear Sir,

Sub: Public Hearing – 7th Nov. 2005

Ref: Tree Cutting on LBS Road, Mumbai

You are aware that we have submitted various representations, also had joint visit regarding tree cutting on LBS Road, Mumbai.

For your ready reference, we mention below :

1. Met personally the Tree Authority Chairman and BMC Commissioner, Shri Johny Joseph on 21.10.2005. (Annexure 'A').
2. Sent representation to Environment Ministry, Delhi, on 21.10.2005. (Annexure 'B')
3. Had meeting with BMC officials at S Ward Office, Bhandup, and also had joint site visit of LBS Road and Powai and submitted representation. (Annexure 'C')
4. Had site visit and survey on 25.10.2005 along with BMC, MMRDA, Tree Authority, contractor officials accompanied by activists.
5. Had a programme, site visit of Shri Sundarlal Bahuguna.
6. Made further representation on 28.10.2005 to Tree Authority Chairman. (Annexure 'D')
7. Chart Table of Tree Cutting etc. (Annexure 'E')

The main concern and points of our representation are –

- i) Whether cutting of so many trees necessary.
- ii) Why MMRDA and its contractor asked for permission for cutting of 1274 trees?
- iii) Whether Tree Authority asked explanation from them for asking illegal, uncalled for permission for tree cutting?
- iv) Tree Authority gave permission for 355 trees cutting. What are their observations for saving and not allowing 919 trees cutting? On what background MMRDA asked for permission to cut these 919 trees?
- v) After site visit, MMRDA, BMC, Tree Authority, contractor, consultant agreed to review road design. It was also agreed that many more trees would be saved by making little changes about the utility services, footpath, etc. What is the review?
- vi) Please give details about the transplantation - which agency is going to transplant? What is their background for transplantation, what is their past performance?
- vii) Please give details about the transplantation undertaken by MMRDA and also allowed by Tree Authority during the last 3 years. How many trees allowed for transplantation, how transplanted, success ratio. Please give details about the performance report and audit about the same done by MMRDA and Tree Authority.

● **President : YUVAK PRATISHTHAN** ● **President : INVESTORS' GRIEVANCES FORUM**
(ISO 9001 : 2000 Certified) (ISO 9001 : 2000 Certified)

● Neelam Nagar, Mumbai 400081. Tel.: 25644151 ● 11, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001 E-mail : kirit@vsnl.in

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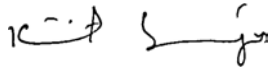
- viii) Whether the transplantation should be done first and then only that part of road should be touched. What is the present status about LBS Road.
- ix) The LBS Road fifth lane, i.e. footpath lane to be acquired. Whether it is fully acquired? What are the road blocks and when it is to be completed?
- x) It is true that till footpath on the fifth lane is constructed, footpath on the fourth lane cannot be removed. Then why such a hurry?
- xi) Why MMRDA started removing third lane and present lane so hastily?
- xii) It is simple till fifth lane/new footpath land is not acquired, whole of the footpath is not developed, there is no use of present footpath tree cutting.
- xiii) Is it that the contractor and MMRDA are in a hurry to complete their cement concrete work?

We are of the opinion –

- **Minimum tree cutting**
- **Transplantation first**
- **Transplantation by experienced company**
- **First performance report by MMRDA, Tree Authority and contractor of last three years transplantation and tree cutting**
- **First acquisition and completion of fifth lane, i.e. footpath, then only consideration of fourth lane, i.e. present footpath.**

Thanking you,

Yours truly,



DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA