

***Dr. Kirit Somaiya***  
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Ex - Member of Parliament

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

October 21, 2005

Mr. Johny Joseph  
Municipal Commissioner &  
Chairman, Tree Authority  
Mumbai

Dear Sir,

**Sub: 80 years old – 150 trees – Cutting on LBS Marg**

For the past several weeks, public debate is going on regarding 150 trees on LBS Marg. It is understood that these trees are 50-100 years old. In MUIP Project of MMRDA, special permission has been given by Tree Authority to cut these trees.

**Public debate has started as to whether the society should compromise development and 100 year-old trees. Can via media be found out?**

For your information, Tree Authority, MMRDA under the same MUIP Project on Eastern Express Highway had allowed the contractor to cut down more than 5000 trees. Before any survey was done, permission from Tree Authority and MMRDA allowed the contractor to complete more than 30% of Eastern Express Highway road work. It was due to our initiative and also support from the Govt. of India Environment Ministry that further damage was stopped and the result is surprising.

5477 trees saved. Transplantation ordered for more than 3631 trees. I personally visited and seen about 2000 trees transplantation done at the Truck Terminal at Wadala and at the Dumping Ground, Mulund.

It is also understood that now road expansion design of Eastern Express Highway changed, more than 2000 trees, which otherwise would have been uprooted, have been saved. The transplantation orders for the same is stayed. 2000 trees will remain as it is. The development is also effected.

**We would request you to please review your decision. MMRDA and BMC along with Tree Authority should try to protect such old trees.**

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA**

**PARAG ALAVANI**  
BJP Group Leader

● **President : YUVAK PRATISHTHAN** ● **President : INVESTORS' GRIEVANCES FORUM**  
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