

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

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

October 24, 2005

Secretary  
Government of India  
Environment Ministry  
Paryavaran Bhavan  
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

**Ref: Powai Lake, Mumbai – National Conservation of Lake Programme**

**Sub: Illegal tree cutting, encroachment, filing/reclamation by MMRDA/  
MSRDC for JVLR Programme**

We have received several complaints from local residents, environmentalists and others on the above subject.

It may be noted that Powai Lake, Mumbai, has been taken under "National Conservation of Lake Programme". Government of India – Environment Ministry had sanctioned and also disbursed Rs.10.54 crores.

MMRDA has undertaken a road widening project, Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Road. Complaints have been received that illegal filling/reclamation of Powai Lake to widen the road is being undertaken by the contractor under the supervision of MSRDC and MMRDA.

It is also stated that hundreds of trees have been uprooted, cut by the road contractor.

I have paid a site visit along with BMC officials on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2005. I was horrified to see the working going on.

I would request you to immediately intervene and check -

- whether the contractor is doing the work in proper manner
- whether the survey has been undertaken
- whether Tree Authority had personally verified the fact and details
- Transplantation, compensatory plantation have been verified.

The 26<sup>th</sup> July incident has taught us a lesson to behave properly with the nature. The overflow of Vihar, Tulsi and Powa Lakes caused heavy flood in Mithi river. More than 400 people have died on the River bank in Mumbai.

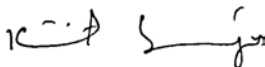
Whether such reclamation of land/lake is allowed under National Conservation of Lake Programme? Whether permissions were obtained, scientific study had been done.

On the one side, the Government announces revival, widening, desilting of Mithi River. Simultaneously, such illegal work at/on Powai bank takes place.

Request to treat this as urgent and do the needful.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,



**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA**

● **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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Mr. Megha Reddy  
General Manager  
Unity Construction  
1252, Pushpanjali Apartments  
Old Prabhadevi Road  
Prabhadevi, Mumbai

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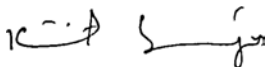
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Mr. Ramnath Jha MD MSRDC Mumbai 400 051	Mr. Megha Reddy General Manager Unity Construction 1252, Pushpanjali Apartments Old Prabhadevi Road Prabhadevi, Mumbai
Mr. Johny Joseph Municipal Commissioner & Chairman, Tree Authority Municipal Corporation Building Mahapalika Marg Mumbai	Mr. Prakash Naringekar Superintendent of Gardens Tree Authority of India Jeejamata Udyan Byculla Mumbai
Asstt Municipal Commissioner S Ward Bhandup Mumbai	Shri Dilip Patel Deputy Mayor Municipal Corporation Building Annexe Mahapalika Marg Mumbai 400 001
Mayor Mumbai	Dr. D.B.. Boralkar Member Secretary Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Mumbai
Secretary Government of India Environment Ministry Paryavaran Bhavan New Delhi	

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