

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES COMMISSION
GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
M-Block , I.P. Estate (near ITO) Vikas Bhawan: New Delhi-2
Order under Para 2(B) of the PGC Resolution No. F.4/14/94-AR/dt. 25.9.97

Date of hearing: 07.10.2020

Complainant : Vanaspati Sanrakshan (NGO)

Respondent : The Secretary,
Department of Environment & Forest,
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
through
Shri Amit Anand,
Dy. Conservator of Forest - Present.

Grievance No. : PGC/2019/Env./02

1. Brief facts of the complaint

- 1.1 A NGO namely Vanaspati Sanrakshan has filed a grievance in PGC on 18.11.2019 regarding cutting of a big tree at Kothi No. B-9, G.K.-I, New Delhi – 110048 (Hans Raj Gupta Marg) by unknown persons without taking permission from the Forest Department for selling its wooden logs in grey market at exorbitant prices.

2. Facts emerged during the proceedings.

- 2.1 Shri Amit Anand, Dy. Conservator of Forest (South Forest Division), Department of Forest & Wildlife was present in the hearing. He did not furnish any Action Taken Report. However, he has stated verbally that the department will take action against the culprit if any complaint was received regarding cutting of trees.

He further submitted that on receiving complaint of tree cutting, they first locate the concerned area on Google Earth to verify if the impugned tree is there or not. If it is found that the tree has indeed been there, then in the interest of natural justice, a hearing notice was given to both the complainant and the party complained against. During the said hearing, if it is established that the party complained against has cut/fell the tree, then necessary action will be taken against them as per the provisions of Forest Act and a FIR will also be lodged at the concerned Police Station.

- 2.2 The complainant was not present in the hearing.

3. **Directions**

3.1 It is the duty and responsibility of the Forest Department officers to take punitive action against any act of tree cutting that has been brought to their notice so that the forest area in Delhi, which is already depleting at an alarming rate, did not reduce further as the trees act as the lifeline of our environment and cutting them will have detrimental effect on the lives of citizens of Delhi.

Shri Amit Anand, Dy. Conservator of Forest is advised to look into the matter and verify the allegations of the complainant regarding tree cutting and if found true, then necessary action, as per the provisions of Forest Act, shall be taken against the culprit and the action taken by the department to be intimated to the Commission.

3.2 With the above directions, the case stands disposed of in the Commission. Further, the complainant is at liberty to approach Forest & Wildlife Department as well as the Commission in case he has any further grievance with regard to his present complaint.

**(SMT. MADHU SHARAN)
MEMBER (PGC)**

No. PGC/2019/Env./02

Dated : .10.2020

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Department of Environment & Forest, GNCT of Delhi, 6th Level, C-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi – 110002.
2. The Conservator of Forest, Department of Forest & Wildlife, 2nd Floor, A Block, Vikas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi – 110002.
3. Shri Amit Anand, Dy. Conservator of Forest (South Forest Division), Department of Forest & Wildlife, GNCT of Delhi, near Karni Singh Shooting Range, Tuglaqabad, Delhi – 110066.
4. Vanaspati Sanrakshan