

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**  
**WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE**  
**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 232 OF 2024 (WZ)**

Banda Nagraj Kumar

... Applicant

Versus

Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation &amp; Ors.

... Respondents

**INDEX**

<b><u>Sr.No.</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Particulars</u></b>	<b><u>Page Nos.</u></b>
1.	06.03.2025	Affidavit in Reply on behalf of Respondent No.1	<b>1 – 7</b>
2.	03.08.2015	<b><u>Exhibit – "A"</u></b> Copy of the Circular issued by the Respondent No.1 Corporation	<b>8 – 20</b>
3.	30.03.2016	<b><u>Exhibit – "B"</u></b> Copy of the Circular issued by the Respondent No.1 thereby implementing guidelines for tree felling/re-plantation/trimming of trees	<b>21 - 26</b>
4.	20.04.2017	<b><u>Exhibit – "C"</u></b> Copy of the Circular issued by the Respondent No.1 revising the guidelines implemented through Circular dated 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	<b>27 -28</b>
5.	23.01.2019	<b><u>Exhibit – "D"</u></b> Copy of the Circular issued by the Respondent No.1 introducing additional guidelines in respect of tree felling permission	<b>29</b>
6.	13.01.2023	<b><u>Exhibit – "E"</u></b> Copy of the Circular issued by the Respondent No.1 revising the guidelines as per the amendment of the Tree Act	<b>30 - 31</b>



**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

**WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE**

1

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 232 OF 2024 (WZ)**

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**... Applicant**

**Versus**

**Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation**

**& Ors.**

**... Respondents**

**AFFIDAVIT IN REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1**

I, **SANTOSH H. KALASKAR**, Deputy Engineer of Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, the Respondent No.1 herein, having office at MIDC Division II, Mahape Office Building Plot No.AM-20, Behind Lokmat Building, Thane Belapur Road, TTC Industrial Area, Navi Mumbai 400 710, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. I say that I have read the copy of the above Application, and I have perused the relevant records available in my office pertaining to the above matter and I am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case so as to be able to depose to the same.
2. I say that the Applicant through this Application seeks the Respondent No.1 (**MIDC/ the Corporation**) to maintain afforestation of Open Space No. 7. Furthermore, the Applicant also prays before this Hon'ble Tribunal to direct the Corporation and Respondent No. 2 to abstain from



felling of any existing trees and carrying out any construction in respect of OS-7 at Pawane, Navi-Mumbai.

②

3. I say that I am filing this Affidavit for a limited purpose of putting on record the stand of the Corporation in respect of the above Application. I seek liberty of this Hon'ble Tribunal to file further affidavits as and when necessary. Furthermore, I deny all the averments against the Corporation made by the Applicant in the Application unless expressly admitted herein.
4. I say that the Corporation has been established under the provisions of the Maharashtra Industrial Development Act, 1961 (**MID Act**). I say that the Corporation has an avowed objective of planned and accelerated establishment and development of industries in the State of Maharashtra. In furtherance of the objectives of MID Act, the Corporation has established various Industrial Areas and Industrial Estates throughout the State of Maharashtra. The principal and predominant purpose of the Corporation is the establishment, growth and development of Industries in these Industrial Areas and Industrial Estates in the State of Maharashtra.
5. I say that MIDC has been appointed as a Special Planning Authority by virtue of the provisions of sub-section 1A of Section 40 of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1996 (**MRTP Act**) for

any area where the Chapter VI of the MID Act applies or for any area comprising of Government land transferred to the MIDC.

6. I say that as per Section 3 of the Maharashtra (Urban Area) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975 (**the Tree Act**), the authorities are empowered to constitute a Tree Authority to grant permission for protection and preservation of trees in their respective jurisdiction. The Corporation issued a Circular dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2015 constituting a Tree Authority for granting permission for tree felling/ transplanting/ trimming etc. Annexed and marked hereto as **Exhibit "A"** is a copy of the Circular dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015.
7. I say that upon the constitution of a tree authority, the Corporation has issued a Circular dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016 thereby implementing guidelines for tree felling/re-plantation/trimming of trees. According to this Circular, if permission to fell a tree is granted by the Tree Authority of the Corporation, the allottee shall plant two trees of same or suitable species against one fallen tree within 30 days. Moreover, the allottee shall deposit Rs. 10,000/- for every fallen tree. Annexed and marked hereto as **Exhibit "B"** is a copy of Circular dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
8. I say that the Corporation issued another Circular dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 revising the guidelines implemented through Circular dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016. As per this Circular, in areas where permission to fell a tree is



4

granted, the allottee shall plant 5 trees for every fallen tree. Furthermore, the allottee shall plant two trees for every transplanted tree. The allottee shall make a security deposit of Rs. 10,000/- for every fallen and/or transplanted tree. Annexed and marked hereto as **Exhibit "C"** is a copy of Circular dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

9. I say that the Corporation issued a Circular dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 introducing additional guidelines in respect of tree felling permission. According to this Circular, the allottee shall provide additional bank guarantee of Rs. 30,000/- per tree for 'High-Risk Trees' and Rs. 10,000/- per tree as per circular dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Annexed and marked hereto as **Exhibit "D"** is a copy of Circular dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019.

10. I say that the State of Maharashtra has amended the Tree Act as published in Government Gazette of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and constituted a State Tree Authority to monitor functioning and decide applications referred to it by Tree Authorities in the State. I crave leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to place on record the Government Gazette dated 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 as and when necessary.



11. I say that the Corporation issued a Circular dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023 revising the guidelines as per the amendment of the Tree Act. This Circular is issued in consonance with the guidelines issued by the State of Maharashtra, wherein, any tree having aged more than 50 years is to

be termed as 'heritage tree'. Furthermore, the trees having aged more than two hundred years, then the Tree Authority shall refer the matter to the Maharashtra State Tree Authority with its report and recommendation. Annexed and marked hereto as **Exhibit "E"** is a copy of Circular dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

12.I say that the Corporation does not itself engage in any tree felling. The Corporation allots the plots to interested individuals and according to the permission granted by the Tree Authority of the Corporation, the Corporation grants permission of tree felling to the allottees as per its aforesaid circulars. Thus, in any event, any tree felling done, is conducted by such allottee subject to obtaining prior permission in compliance to the conditions stipulated during grant of such permission. It is pertinent to know that without the allotment the question of felling of trees does not arise.

13.I say that on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024, the Corporation replied to the RTI Application filed by the Applicant dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024 seeking information on the status of OS-7 (**open space**). The Corporation informed the Applicant that the OS-7 at Pawane, Navi Mumbai admeasure 3349 sq. mtrs. The open space is surrounded with a fence and a sewage line goes through it. The open space also has an MSEB transmitter on it. Furthermore, there are several coconut trees and plants along with greenery for beautification purposes. The reply of the





Corporation to Applicant's RTI Application dated 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 is annexed as 'Annexure A - 7' to the Application.

6

14. I say that the Applicant filed another RTI Application which was replied by the Corporation on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The Corporation through its reply to the RTI Application informed that the OS - 7 was allotted to the M/s. Expanded Incorporation for period of 10 years commencing from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2000 till 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010 only for tree plantation and nursing of trees. However, the Corporation retrieved the allotment as some space from the said open space which did not have trees was to be carved out and allotted to the local PAPs. This was informed to M/s. Expanded Incorporation on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024. The reply of the Corporation to Applicant's RTI Application dated 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 is annexed as 'Annexure A - 8' to the Application.

15. I say that after the repossession of OS-7, the Corporation has neither allotted OS-7 wholly to any one for industrial use or commercial use. Therefore, the apprehension of the Applicant for allotment of open space for commercial purposes is baseless and unwarranted.

16. I say that when the representatives of the Corporation visited Plot No.OS-7, Pawane in TTC Industrial Area on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the representatives of the Corporation observed that there is no tree cutting observed on site.





17. I say that as submitted above, area of 300 sq. mtrs. which was carved out from OS-7 and allotted to PAPs being Mr. Rajesh Satyawar Bhoir, Mr. Upendra Laxman Halbe and Mr. Sanjay Devchand Mhatre as Plot No. PAP-C-129.

7

18. In view of the above, Respondent No.1 submits that it is taking due care while making any allotments to ensure that no trees are harmed.

19. Thus, it is humbly prayed by Respondent No.1 herein that this Hon'ble Tribunal may upon considering the steps taken by the Corporation pass appropriate orders and dismiss the above Original Application.



Solemnly affirmed at Mumbai )  
on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025 )

06 MAR 2025

Little & Co.  
*[Signature]*

Partner  
Advocates for the Respondent No. 1.



Deponent,  
*[Signature]*

Before me

**BEFORE ME**

*[Signature]*

Adv. S. N. Dhanage  
Notary Govt. of India  
Regd. No. 15376, MUMBAI (MS)  
404-405, 4th Floor, Davar House,  
197/199, Near Central Camera Bldg.,  
D. N. Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400001.  
Mob.: 8591897834



**NOTED & REGISTERED**  
Page No. 020 Sr. No. 180  
Date 06 MAR 2025

Exhibit 98A

MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)

B91092  
MIDC/CP/ /2015  
Date: 03/08/15

8

OFFICE ORDER

**Subject: Appointment of Tree Authority**

Whereas, the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation has been appointed as the Special Planning Authority (hereinafter referred to as 'The said Authority'), by virtue of provisions of sub section 1A of section 40 of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966 or for any area where Chapter VI of Maharashtra Industrial Development Act, 1961 applies or for any other area comprising Govt. Land transferred to the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (hereinafter referred to as 'MIDC')

And whereas, under section 3 of Maharashtra (Urban Area) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975 (hereinafter referred to as 'the said act'), the said authority can constitute a Tree Authority for giving permission for Protection and Preservation of Trees in jurisdiction of said authority.

And whereas, it is necessary to constitute a Tree Authority in accordance with the provision of the said act for Protection and Preservation of Trees and granting permissions expeditiously within the jurisdiction of Special Planning Authority.

Therefore, as per section 3 of the said act, MIDC constitutes its Tree Authority comprising following members-

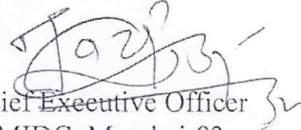
The Chief Executive Officer	– Chairman
Jt. Chief Executive Officer	– Member
Jt. Chief Executive Officer (DMIC)	– Member
Jt. Chief Executive Officer (IT)	– Member
Dy. Chief Executive Officer (1)	– Member
Dy. Chief Executive Officer (2)	– Member
Dy. Chief Executive Officer (3)	– Member
Dy. Chief Executive Officer (4)	– Member
Chief Planner	– Member
Chief Engineer (HQ)	– Member
Dy. Chief Executive Officer (Environment)	– Member Secretary



9

As per section 5 of the said act, Dy. Engineer/ Executive Engineer and Dy. Planner, Assistant Planner functioning as SPA for particular area are appointed as Tree Officer for the area under their jurisdiction.

The functions of Tree Authority and Tree Officer are as per section 7 of the said Act. As and when required Tree Officer shall submit the proposal to Tree Authority for the approval.

  
Chief Executive Officer  
MIDC, Mumbai-93

Copy submitted to Hon. Principal Secretary, Industry for information please.

Copy submitted to Hon. CEO, MIDC for information please.

Copy submitted to Hon. Jt. CEO/Jt. CEO (IT)/ Jt. CEO (DMIC), MIDC, for information.

Copy FWCs to all HODs, MIDC, for information.

Copy to all EEs/ SPAs/ ROs for information & necessary action.



1975 : Mah. XLIV]

(i) < 11

10

THE MAHARASHTRA (URBAN AREAS) PROTECTION AND  
PRESERVATION OF TREES ACT, 1975.

CONTENTS.

PREAMBLE.  
SECTIONS.

CHAPTER I.

PRELIMINARY.

1. Short title, extent and commencement.
2. Definitions.

CHAPTER II.

ESTABLISHMENT AND PROCEDURE OF TREE AUTHORITY.

3. Establishment of Tree Authority.
4. Meeting of Tree Authority.

CHAPTER III.

OFFICERS AND SERVANTS.

5. Appointment of Tree Officer.
6. Appointment of other officers and servants.

CHAPTER IV.

DUTIES OF TREE AUTHORITY.

7. Duties of Tree Authority.

CHAPTER V.

RESTRICTIONS ON FELLING OF TREES AND LIABILITY FOR PLANTING  
AND PRESERVATION OF TREES.

8. Restrictions on felling of trees.
9. Power to require planting of adequate number of trees.
10. Power to require planting of a tree in place of fallen or destroyed tree.
11. Responsibility for preservation of trees and power to take deposit for proper compliance.
12. Adoption of trees.
13. Forfeiture of deposit and recovery of expenditure on failure to comply with orders for planting trees.
14. Appeals.

CHAPTER VI.

FINANCE, BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS.

15. Fund of Tree Authority.
16. Budget.
17. Accounts and audit.

CHAPTER VII.

TREE CESS.

18. Levy and collection of Tree cess.

CHAPTER VIII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

19. Permission for development of land to be given with approval of Tree Officer.
20. Power of Tree Authority to give directions.
- 20A. Prevention of felling or destruction of trees.
- 20B. Power of entry for the purposes of this Act.
21. Offence and penalty.
22. Power to make rules.

H 236-1



MAHARASHTRA ACT No. XLIV OF 1975<sup>1</sup>

[THE MAHARASHTRA (URBAN AREAS) PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF TREES ACT, 1975]

[ 16th September 1975 ]

Amended by Mah. 3 of 1977 (8-1-1977).†

" " " 7 of 1996 (8-1-1996)†

" " " 10 of 2010 (1-6-2010)†

" " " 6 of 2012§ (12-3-2012)†

An Act to make better provision for trees in urban areas in the State by regulating felling of trees and providing for planting of adequate number of new trees in those areas.

WHEREAS with the growing pace of urbanisation and industrialisation, there has been indiscriminate felling of large number of trees in the urban areas of the State of Maharashtra ;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to make better provision <sup>2</sup>[for protection and preservation] of trees in urban areas in the State, by regulating felling of trees and providing for planting of adequate number of new trees in those areas and to provide for matters connected therewith; It is hereby enacted in the Twenty-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows, namely :—

## CHAPTER I

## PRELIMINARY.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) <sup>3</sup>[Protection and Preservation] of Trees Act, 1975.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Maharashtra.

(3) It shall come into force in any urban area or part thereof on such date as the State Government may, by notification to the *Official Gazette*, specify; and different dates may be specified for different urban areas or parts thereof.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

<sup>4</sup>[(1a) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under section 22 of this Act;]

(a) "preservation of trees" includes planting of new trees and <sup>5</sup>[other operations for survival and propagation of the trees;].

(b) "relevant Act" means the Act under which the urban local authority concerned is constituted;

(c) "to fell a tree" includes burning or cutting or <sup>6</sup>[in any way damaging a tree;]

<sup>7</sup>[(d) "tree" means any perennial woody plant, whether in the seeding or sapling stage or fully grown stage, and includes shrubs whose branches spring from the ground level;]

(e) "Tree Officer" means an officer appointed as such by the Tree Authority for the purpose of this Act;

(f) "Urban area" means a municipal corporation area for which a municipal corporation is constituted under the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act, the Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporation Act, 1949 or the City of Nagpur Corporation Act, 1948, or a municipal area for which a Municipal Council is constituted under the \*Maharashtra Municipalities Act, 1965, and includes a notified area for which a Special Planning Authority is constituted or appointed under section 40 of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966 or an area designated as the site for a new town for which a Development Authority is constituted under section 113 of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966 ;

Bom. III  
of 1888.  
Bom.  
LIX of  
1949.  
C.P. and  
Berar II  
of 1950.  
Mth XL  
of 1965  
Mah.  
XXXVII  
of 1966.  
Mah.  
XXXVII  
of 1966.

<sup>1</sup> For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Maharashtra Government Gazette*, 1975, Part V, page 596.

<sup>2</sup> These words were substituted for the words "for preservation" by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 2.

<sup>3</sup> These words were substituted for the word "preservation", *ibid*, s. 3.

<sup>4</sup> Clause (1a) was inserted, *ibid*, s. 4.

<sup>5</sup> These words were substituted for the words "transplanting trees to other sites" by Mah. 3 of 1977, s. 2(a).

<sup>6</sup> These words were substituted for the words "lopping a tree to cause substantial damage or destruction thereto", *ibid*, s. 2(b).

<sup>7</sup> Clause (d) was substituted for the original, *ibid*, s. 2(c).

† This indicates the date of commencement of Act.

\* See now, the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, *Nagar Panchayats* and Industrial Townships Act, 1965.

§ Maharashtra Ordinance No. IV of 2012 was repealed by Mah. VI of 2012, s. 12.

Short title,  
extent and  
commence-  
ment.

Definitions.



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12

(g) "urban local authority" in respect of any urban area, means the municipal corporation, municipal council, Special Planning Authority or Development Authority, as the case may be, having jurisdiction over that area ;

(h) words and expressions used in this Act, but not defined herein, shall have the meanings assigned to them in the relevant Act.

## CHAPTER II.

## ESTABLISHMENT AND PROCEDURE OF TREE AUTHORITY.

Establishment  
of Tree  
Authority:

3. (1) As soon as may be after this Act is brought into force in any urban area the urban local authority concerned shall constitute a Tree Authority, consisting of [the Chairman and other] not less than five and not more than fifteen persons from amongst its members, appointed in such manner and for such period as that authority may determine :

Provided that, where an administrator by whatever name called is appointed for any municipal corporation or municipal council, he shall during the period of his appointment, act as the Tree Authority and exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the Tree Authority.

(2) In the case of an urban local authority specified in column (1) of the table below the Chairman of its Tree Authority shall be the person specified against it in column (2) thereof.

Name of the urban local authority (1)	Chairman of its Tree Authority (2)
1. A Municipal Corporation	<sup>2</sup> [The Commissioner] of the Corporation.
2. A Municipal Council	The President of the Council.
3. A Special Planning Authority constituted under section 40(1) (a) of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966.	<sup>3</sup> [The Chief Executive Officer] of the Special Planning Authority. Mah. XXXVII of 1966.
4. A New Town Development Authority constituted under section 113(2) of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966.	<sup>4</sup> [The Chief Executive Officer] of the New Town Development Authority. Mah. XXXVII of 1966.
5. A New Town Development Authority declared under section 113 (3A) of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966 or a Special Planning Authority appointed under section 40(1)(b) of that Act.	The Managing Director of the Corporation or company declared to be the New Town Development Authority. Mah. XXXVII of 1966.

1 These words were inserted by Mah. 7 of 1966, s. 5(a).

2 These words were substituted for the words "The Mayor", *ibid.*, s. 5(b)(i).

3 These words were substituted for the words "The Chairman", *ibid.*, s. 5(b)(ii).

4 These words were substituted for the words "The Chairman", *ibid.*, s. 5(b)(iii).



(3) Every Tree Authority may <sup>1</sup>[nominate] representatives of non-official organisations, who have special knowledge or practical experience in the field of planting and preservation of trees, as members of the Tree Authority, but the number of <sup>2</sup>[such nominated members shall not exceed the number of members appointed under sub-section (1)]. These members shall be <sup>3</sup>[nominated in such manner and for such period as may be prescribed].

(4) Any vacancy in the Tree Authority shall be filled as soon as may be by the authority competent to appoint the member in whose place fresh appointment is to be made.

4. <sup>4</sup>[(1) The Tree Authority shall meet at least once every month at such place and time as the Chairman may decide but, forty-five days shall not intervene between its two consecutive meetings.] Meetings of Tree Authority

(2) The quorum to constitute a meeting of the Tree Authority shall be one-third of the total number of its members including <sup>5</sup>[the nominated] members, if any.

(3) The <sup>6</sup>[nominated] member shall have the right to vote at a meeting of the Tree Authority.

(4) Save as otherwise provided by or under this Act, the rules of procedure for the meeting of the urban authority shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the meetings of the Tree Authority.

### CHAPTER III.

#### OFFICERS AND SERVANTS.

5. (1) As soon as may be after this Act is brought into force in any urban area, the urban local authority concerned shall, subject to sub-section (2), appoint one or more of its officers as Tree Officers for the purposes of this Act. Appoint of Tree Officer.

(2) In Greater Bombay any officer to be appointed as Tree Officer shall not be below the rank of Ward Officer, and in other municipal corporation areas such officer shall not be below the rank of Assistant Municipal Commissioner. In every municipal area, the Chief Officer of the municipal council concerned shall be Tree Officer, and the Council may appoint one or more of its other officers as Tree Officers.

(3) Every Tree Officer shall exercise jurisdiction over the whole or such part of the urban area as <sup>7</sup>[the Tree Authority] may, from time to time, determine.

6. (1) The urban local authority may, from time to time, appoint, such other officers and servants subordinate to the Tree Officer, as it considers necessary : Appoint of other officers & servants.

XL of 1965. Mah. 1965. Provided that, where the urban local authority is a municipal council notwithstanding any restrictions on the appointment of staff contained in the \*Maharashtra Municipalities Act, 1965, the municipal council shall be competent to appoint the staff considered necessary by it for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The conditions of appointment and service and the powers and duties of such officers and servants shall be such as may be determined by the urban local authority.

1 This word was substituted for the word "co-opt" by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 5(c)(i).

2 These words, brackets and figure were substituted for the words "such co-opted members shall not exceed three", *ibid.*, s. 5(c)(ii).

3 These words were substituted for the words "co-opted in such manner and for such period as the Tree Authority may determine", *ibid.*, s. 5(c)(iii)

4 Sub-section (1) was substituted, *ibid.*, s. 6(a).

5 These words were substituted for the words "co-opted", *ibid.*, s. 6(b).

6 This word was substituted for the word "co-opted", *ibid.*, s. 6(c).

7 These words were substituted for the words "the urban local authority", *ibid.*, s. 7.

\* See now, the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships Act, 1965.



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14

## CHAPTER IV.

## DUTIES OF TREE AUTHORITY.

Duties of  
Tree  
Authority.

7. Notwithstanding anything contained in the relevant Act or in any other law for the time being in force, and subject to any special or general directions given by the State Government, the Tree Authority shall be responsible for—

- (a) <sup>1</sup>[protection and preservation] of all trees in all lands within its jurisdiction ;
- (b) <sup>2</sup>[carrying out a census of the existing trees in all lands within its jurisdiction, <sup>3</sup>once before December 1996 and thereafter once in every five years] ;
- (c) prescribing standards specifying the number and types of trees which each plot of land shall have and which shall be planted therein ;
- (d) development and maintenance of nurseries for the supply of seeds, sapplings and trees to persons who desire to plant new trees or to replace trees which have been felled with the previous permission of the Tree Officer <sup>4</sup>[or involuntarily uprooted] ;
- (e) transplanting of trees necessitated by construction of new roads or widening or existing roads or for safeguarding danger to life or property ;
- <sup>5</sup>[(f) organisation of flower, fruit, vegetable, tree or plant shows <sup>6</sup>[at least once a year] and assisting private and public institutions in organising such shows, and creation of consciousness of importance of trees and vegetation to the human welfare ;
- (g) grant of advice and technical assistance to any person seeking such advice or assistance in any matter connected with <sup>7</sup>[planting, protection and preservation] of trees ;
- (h) planting and maintaining such number of trees as it considers necessary, according to the prescribed standards, <sup>8</sup>[along the roads,] in public parks and gardens and on banks of rivers or takes or <sup>9</sup>[sea shores, on hills, open spaces or public places];
- (i) undertaking any other schemes or measures for achieving the objects of this Act.

## CHAPTER V.

RESTRICTIONS ON FELLING OF TREES AND LIABILITY FOR PLANTING  
AND PRESERVATION OF TREES.Restrictions  
on felling  
of trees.

8. (1) On and after the date on which this Act is brought into force in any urban area, notwithstanding any custom, usage, contract or law for the time being in force, no person shall fell any tree or cause any tree to be felled in any land, whether of his ownership or otherwise, situated within that urban area, except with the previous permission of the Tree Officer.

- 1 These words were substituted for the words "preservation" by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 8(a).
- 2 Clause (b) was substituted for the original by Mah. 3 of 1977, s. 3(a).
- 3 These words and figures were substituted for the words "from time to time, as may be directed by the State Government" by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 8(b).
- 4 These words were added, *ibid.*, s. 8(c).
- 5 Clause (f) was substituted for the original by Mah. 3 of 1977, s. 3(b).
- 6 These words were inserted by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 8(d).
- 7 These words were substituted for the words "planting and preservation", *ibid.*, s. 8(e).
- 8 These words were substituted for the words "on roads", *ibid.*, s. 8(f).
- 9 These words were substituted for the words "sea shores" by Mah. 3 of 1977, s. 3(c).



(2) If <sup>1</sup>[any person, including an officer of the urban local authority or an officer of the State Government or the Central Government, proposes] to fell a tree, he shall apply in writing to the <sup>2</sup>[Tree Authority] for permission in that behalf. The application shall be accompanied by <sup>3</sup>[the description of the tree and] a site plan, indicating the position of the tree required to be felled and the reasons therefor:

<sup>4</sup>[(3) (a) On receipt of such application, the Tree Authority shall cause the Tree Officer to personally inspect the tree and hold enquiry and submit a report to the Tree Authority within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of such application. Adequate public notice shall be given by the Tree Officer by advertising in local newspapers as well as by affixing a notice on a conspicuous part of the tree that is required to be fell. Thereafter, the Tree Authority may give permission with or without conditions or refuse it, within a period of sixty days from the date of receipt of the application. However, no tree shall be fell until fifteen days after such permission is given :

Provided that, no such permission shall be refused if, in the opinion of the Tree Authority, the tree is dead, or diseased or wind-fallen, or it constitutes a danger to life or property, or obstructs traffic; and if any objection is received against such permission, the matter shall be placed before the Tree Authority for reconsideration, and a decision shall be taken within two weeks after giving a hearing to the person who has raised the objection.

(b) A report of permissions granted by the Tree Authority for felling trees shall be submitted at least once in six months to the concerned urban local authority in whose jurisdiction the Tree Authority is functioning.]

<sup>5</sup>[(4) If the Tree Authority fails to inform the applicant of its decision within sixty days, from the date of the receipt of the application by it, or if the receipt of the application has been acknowledged by it within this period, from the date of acknowledgement of the receipt of the application, the permission applied for shall be deemed to have been granted.]

(5) Where permission to fell a tree is granted <sup>6</sup>[Tree Authority] may grant it subject to the condition that the applicant shall plant another tree of the same or other <sup>7</sup>[suitable local species] on the same site or other suitable place within thirty days from the date the tree is felled, or such extended time as the Tree Officer may allow in this behalf.

9. (1) If, in the opinion of the Tree Officer, the number of trees in any land is not adequate according to the standards prescribed under paragraph (c) of section 7, the Tree Officer may, after giving a reasonable opportunity to the owner or occupier of the land of being heard, by order require him to plant such trees or additional trees and at such places in the land as may be specified in the order.

Power to require planting of adequate number of trees.

(2) When an order is made under sub-section (1), the owner or occupier of the land shall comply with the order within ninety days from the receipt thereof.

10. (1) Where any tree is fallen or destroyed by wind, fire, lightning or torrential rain, the Tree Officer may, *suo motu* or on information given to him, after holding such inquiry as he deems fit and giving a reasonable opportunity to the owner or occupier of the land where the tree existed, by order, require such owner or occupier <sup>8</sup>[to plant one or more trees of the local species] in place of the tree so fallen or destroyed of the same or <sup>9</sup>[other local species] at the same or other suitable place as may be specified in the order.

Power to require planting of a tree in place of fallen or destroyed tree.

1 These words were substituted for the words "any person wishes" by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 9(a)(i).

2 These words were substituted for the words "Tree Officer", *ibid.*, s. 9(a) (ii).

3 These words were inserted, *ibid.*, s. 9(a) (iii).

4 Sub-section (3) was substituted for the original, *ibid.*, s. 9(b).

5 Sub-section (4) was substituted for the original, *ibid.*, s. 9(c).

6 These words were substituted for the words "Tree Officer", *ibid.*, s. 9(d)(i).

7 These words were substituted for the words "suitable species", *ibid.*, s. 9(d)(ii).

8 These words were substituted for the words "to plant a tree", *ibid.*, s. 10(a).

9 These words were substituted for the words "other species", *ibid.*, s. 10(b).



(2) Where an order is made under sub-section (1), the owner or occupier of the land shall comply with the order within ninety days from the receipt thereof.

Responsibility  
for  
preservation  
of trees<sup>1</sup> and  
power to  
take deposit  
for proper  
compliance).

11. <sup>1</sup>[(1)] Where an order is made <sup>2</sup>\* \* \* under sections 8, 9 or 10 subject to the provisions of section 12, it shall be the duty of the owner or occupier of the land who is directed to plant a tree to see that the tree grows properly <sup>3</sup>[and is well preserved and shall give a report to the Tree Officer once in six months about the conditions of such tree or trees for a period of three years]. It shall also be the duty of such owner or occupier to preserve all other trees existing on the land on the date of coming into force of this Act in the urban area in which the land is situated.

<sup>4</sup>[(2) Where an order is made under sections 8, 9 or 10, the Tree Officer may require the owner or, as the case may be, the occupier, of the land to deposit with him such sum as he may specify in this behalf, as security for ensuring proper compliance with the order made <sup>5</sup>[under sections 8, 9 or 10]. The sum to be deposited shall not exceed such amount as may be prescribed.]

Adoption of  
trees.

12. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force, the Tree Authority may, subject to such terms and conditions as it may specify in that behalf, allow by a written permission any individual, body corporate or institution to adopt any tree for such period as may be specified in the permission, and during such period the said individual, body corporate or institution shall be responsible for the maintenance and preservation of the said tree.

(2) Where any order is made <sup>7</sup>\* \* \* under sections 8, 9 and 10, in lieu of planting a new tree, the Tree Authority may by written permission allow the person concerned to adopt a tree specified by it and then the person shall be responsible for the maintenance and preservation of that tree for such period as may be specified <sup>8</sup>[by the Tree Authority] :

<sup>9</sup>[Provided that, the trees to be adopted shall be less than one year old and their number shall not be less than the number of trees, which the person concerned could have been required to plant under sub-section (5) of section 8, sub-section (1) of section 9 or sub-section (1) of section 10, as the case may be.]

<sup>15</sup>[Forfeiture  
of deposit  
and  
recovery] of  
expenditure  
on failure  
to comply  
with orders  
for planting  
trees.

13. Where the owner or occupier of any land fails to comply with any order made <sup>10</sup>[under sections 8, 9 or 10, the Tree Authority or the Tree Officers, as the case may be, may,] after giving a reasonable opportunity to such owner or occupier of being heard <sup>11</sup>[forfeit the deposit, in full or in part to the Tree Authority] and without prejudice to any other action which may be taken against the defaulter under this Act, take the necessary action <sup>12</sup>\* \* \* and recover the expenditure incurred therefor from the owner or the occupier, as the case may be. <sup>13</sup>[For the purpose of recovery of the amount of such expenditure, the Tree Authority <sup>14</sup>[or the Tree Officer] shall have the same powers as are available to the urban local authority for the purpose of recovery of arrears of a property tax or where such tax, is not levied, for the purpose of recovery of arrears of betterment charges or other dues levied by the urban local authority under the relevant Act.]

- 1 Section 11 was renumbered as sub-section (1) by Mah. 3 of 1977, s. 5(1).
- 2 The words "by the Tree Officer" were deleted by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 11(a) (i).
- 3 These words were substituted for the words "and is well preserved", *ibid.* s. 11(a) (ii).
- 4 Sub-section (2) was added by Mah. 3 of 1977, s. 5(2).
- 5 These words and figures were substituted for the words "by him" by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 11(6).
- 6 These words were inserted by Mah. 3 of 1977, s. 5(3).
- 7 The words "by the Tree Officer" were deleted by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 12(a).
- 8 These words were substituted for the words "by the Tree Officer", *ibid.* s. 12(b).
- 9 This proviso was added by Mah. 3 of 1977, s. 6.
- 10 These words and figures were substituted for the words and figures "by the Tree Officer under sections 8, 9 or 10, the Tree Officer may" by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 13(a).
- 11 These words were inserted, *ibid.*, s. 13(b).
- 12 The word "himself" was deleted, *ibid.*, s. 13(c).
- 13 This portion was added by Mah. 3 of 1977, s. 7.
- 14 These words were inserted by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 13(d).
- 15 These words were substituted for the words "Recovery", *ibid.*, s. 13(e).



C/115

1975 : Mah. XLIV]

Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and  
Preservation of Trees Act, 1975

7

14. (1) Where any decision is given or order is made under section \* \* \* 9 or Appeals. 10 by the Tree Officer, an appeal shall lie to the Tree Authority.

(2) The appeal shall be made within fifteen days from the date the decision is communicated to, or the order is received by, the owner or occupier of the land and shall be accompanied by a fee of Rs. 50.

(3) The Tree Authority shall, as far as possible, decide the appeal within sixty days from the date of its receipt, after giving a reasonable opportunity to the appellant of being heard. The decision of the Tree Authority shall be final, and shall not be questioned in any Court of Law :

Provided that, where an appeal is made in time, the period for compliance, specified in the order of the Tree Officer appealed against, shall be reckoned from the date on which the appeal is decided against the appellant and where the appeal is allowed; the fee of Rs. 50 paid with the appeal shall be refunded to the appellant.

## CHAPTER VI.

## FINANCE, BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS.

15. Notwithstanding anything contained in the relevant law or any other law for the time being in force, the urban local authority shall create a separate fund to be called the Tree Authority Fund, to which shall be credited all moneys received by the Tree Authority including—

{(a) a contribution by the urban local authority from its income from such taxes as may be prescribed or when such taxes are not levied by the Authority, from its income from the betterment charges, if any, levied by it under the relevant Act or from the income derived by it from the sale of plots made by it under the relevant Act. The rates of the contribution shall be such as may be specified by the State Government, from time to time, by a general or special order;]

(b) all moneys raised by levy of a cess under Chapter VII ;

(c) any grants made by the State Government to the Tree Authority ;

(d) any moneys received by the Tree Authority as donations from any individuals, or corporate bodies or institutions ;

{(e) any other money received under the Act :

Provided that, if the total receipts of the Tree Authority from all the sources specified above are less than one half per cent. of the total receipts of the urban local authority, then, the urban local authority shall credit the deficit to the Tree Authority Fund at the end of each financial year.]

16. Every Tree Authority shall, on or before the 31st day of October every year, prepare in such form as the urban local authority may prescribe, an annual budget estimate in respect of the ensuing financial year of the estimated income and expenditure of the Tree Authority and shall, notwithstanding anything contained, in the relevant law, submit it to the urban local authority for approval and inclusion in the budget estimate of that authority.

17. The procedure applicable under the relevant law for maintenance and audit of accounts of the urban local authority shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the maintenance and audit of the accounts of every Tree Authority.

1 The figure "8" was deleted by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 14.

2 Clause (a) was substituted for the original by Mah. 3 of 1977, s. 8.

3 Clause (e) was added by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 15.



CHAPTER VII.  
TREE CESS.Levy and  
collection of  
Tree cess.

18. (1) Where under the relevant law an urban local authority is levying a property tax on buildings and lands, it shall be lawful for such authority, notwithstanding anything contained in the relevant law, upon a request by the Tree Authority, to levy, for the purposes of this Act, an additional tax to be called "the Tree Cess" on the buildings and lands, at such rate not exceeding one per cent. of the rateable value of the property as the said authority may determine.

<sup>1</sup>[(1A) Where under the relevant Act, an urban local authority is levying a property tax on buildings and lands on the Capital value thereof, the Trees Cess leviable under sub-section (1) shall be levied at such rate, not exceeding 0.5 per cent. of the capital value of such building and lands, as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify :

Provided that, the Tree Cess so levied under this section shall not exceed,—

(i) in respect of buildings used for residential premises, two times, and

(ii) in respect of buildings used for non-residential premises, three times,

the amount of Tree Cess leviable in respect thereof in the year immediately preceding such date of adoption of capital value as the basis for assessment of property tax :

Provided further that, for the period of five years commencing from the levy of capital value as the basis for assessment of property tax, the Tree Cess leviable in respect of residential building or tenements having carpet area of 46.45 sq. metres (500 sq. feet) or less, shall not exceed the amount of Tree Cess levied and payable in the year immediately preceding the year of such adoption of capital value as the basis.

*Explanation.*—For the purposes of this section, after the Urban local authority adopts the capital value as the basis for levy of property tax, the Tree Cess, in respect of any taxable building shall be revised after every five years and on each such revision, such amount of Tree Cess, shall not in any case exceed the forty per cent. of the amount of the Tree Cess levied and payable in the year immediately preceding the year of the revision.

<sup>2</sup>[(1B) No Tree Cess under sub-section (1) or (1A) shall be leviable in respect of the buildings and lands or parts thereof vesting in, or in the occupation of, any consul de carriers, whether called as a consul general, consul, vice-consul, consular agent, pro-consul or by any other name of a foreign State recognised as such by the Government of India, or of any members (not being citizens of India) of staff of such officials, and such buildings and lands or parts thereof which are used or intended to be used for any purpose other than for the purpose of profit.

(1C) In respect of the buildings and lands which are liable to be assessed for the first time on or after the 1st April 2010, it shall be lawful for the urban local authority to issue a provisional bill for the payment of Tree Cess, until the final capital value of such buildings and lands is determined under the relevant law, as if such buildings and lands are assessed as per the rateable value worked out on the basis of the prescribed letting rates by the urban local authority, in respect of the official year 2009-2010. On the determination of capital value thereof, the amount of such cess shall be determined under sub-section (1A) and accordingly it shall be lawful for the authority to issue the final bill in respect of the years for which the capital value is determined.]

(2) The procedure for levy and collection of the property tax prescribed under the relevant Act shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the levy and collection of the cess imposed under <sup>3</sup>[sub-sections (1), (1A) or (1C), as the case may be.]

1 Sub-section (1A) was inserted by Mah. 10 of 2010, s. 114.

2 Sub-sections (1B) and (1C) were inserted by Mah. 6 of 2012, s. 11(a)

3 These words, brackets, figures and letters were substituted for the words, brackets, figures and letter "sub-section (1) or, as the case may be, under sub-section (1A)," *ibid.* s. 11(b).



19

C/19

1975 : Mah. XLIV]

*Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and  
Preservation of Trees Act, 1975*

9

CHAPTER VIII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

19. Notwithstanding anything contained in the relevant law or any other law for the time being in force,—

Permission for development of land to be given with approval of Tree Officer.

(a) any authority or officer of the urban local authority, who is empowered to give any permission for development of land, shall not give such permission, except with the approval of and subject to the conditions, if any, imposed by the Tree Officer in regard to the preservation or plantation of trees on such land ;

(b) no completion or occupation certificate in respect of any building shall be issued under the relevant law unless the authority competent to issue such certificate is satisfied that the conditions subject to which permission for development of the land as aforesaid was given have been complied with.

20. The Tree Authority may, from time to time, give to the Tree Officer and other Officers and servants subordinate to him such general or special directions as it thinks fit as to the policy to be followed by them in the discharge of their functions and for carrying out effectively the purposes of this Act, and such officers and servants shall comply with such directions.

Power of Tree Authority to give directions.

[20A. The Tree Officer or any other officer of the urban local authority authorised by such authority in this behalf or any police officer may take such steps and use such force as may be reasonably necessary to prevent the felling or destruction of any tree or for the protection of any tree.

Prevention of felling or destruction of trees.

20B. (1) [It] shall be lawful for the Tree Officer or any officer authorised by him or by the Tree Authority in this behalf, to enter, with such assistants as he may deem necessary, upon any public premises for the purposes of proper enforcement of this Act and for that purpose carry out such inspection and take such steps and use such force as may be expedient.

Power of entry for the purposes of this Act.

\* \* \* \* \*

21. [(1)] Whoever fells any tree or causes any tree to be felled in contravention of the provisions [of the Act] or without reasonable excuse fails to comply with any order issued or condition imposed [by the Tree Officer or the Tree Authority or voluntarily obstructs any member of the Tree Authority or the Tree Officer or any officers and servants subordinate to him in the discharge of their functions under this Act, shall, on conviction, be punished with the fine of not less than one thousand rupees which may extend upto five thousand rupees for every offence and also with imprisonment for a term of not less than one week, which may extend upto one year:]

[Offence and penalty].

1 Sections 20A and 20B were inserted by Mah. 3 of 1977, s. 9.

2 This word was substituted for the words "Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), it" by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 16(a).

3 Sub-section (2) was deleted, *ibid.*, s. 16(b).

4 Section 21 was renumbered as sub-section (1) by Mah. 3 of 1977, s. 10(1).

5 These words were substituted for the words and figure "of section 8" by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 17(a)(i).

6 This portion was substituted for the portion beginning with the words "by the Tree Officer or voluntarily obstructs" and ending with the words "to three months", *ibid.*, s. 17(a)(ii).

7 These words were substituted for the word "Penalty", *ibid.*, s. 17(c).



Provided that, nothing in this section shall apply to the felling of trees on or along the public roads undertaken by the Public Works Department of the State or Central Government.]

[(2) The felling or causing of felling of each tree without the permission of the Tree Authority shall constitute a separate offence.]

Power to  
make rules.

22. (1) The State Government may, subject to the condition of previous publication and by notification in the *Official Gazette*, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made before each House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, and notify such decision in the *Official Gazette*, the rule shall from the date of publication of such notification have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be ; so however that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done or omitted to be done under that rule.

1 Sub-section (2) was substituted for the original, by Mah. 7 of 1996, s. 17(b).



111  
Exhibit B

**MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)

21

**Circular**

No.MIDC/Dy.C.E.O.(Env.)/2016/A98080

Date :- 30/03/2016

**Sub. :- Tree Authority guidelines/procedure.**

**Ref. :-** Office order No. MIDC/CP/B91092/2015 dtd.03.08.2015  
issued by CEO, MIDC.

MIDC has appointed as a special planning authority by MRTP Act 1966 and as per Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection & Preservation of Tree Act, 1975 the said authority can constitute a Tree Authority in accordance with the provisions of the said Act for protection and preservation of trees and granting permission expeditiously within the jurisdiction of MIDC. Therefore, MIDC constituted its Tree Authority & the officer functioning as SPA for particular area are as Tree Officer for the area under jurisdiction vide above referred office order.

**a) The guidelines for felling /re-plantation/trimming of tree are as follows :**

**1) Application to the Tree Officer /Tree Authority :-**

The applicant /plot holder shall make an application in prescribed format to the Tree Officer/Tree Authority alongwith application fees of Rs.6000/- in cash or DD. As per **Annexure- I** The required documents for the application are :

- a) Details of Plot.
- b) Approved plan, if any.
- c) Photographs of the trees with numbering.
- d) The location details of the trees to be fallen shown on the map.
- e) The location details of new plantation /re-plantation.
- f) Affidavit as per **Annexure- II** on bond of Rs.100/-.

**2) Scrutiny of the application :-**

The concerned Tree Officer shall scrutinise the application and raise query, if any. The queries shall be complied by the applicant. The date of



22

compliance of the application will be treated as a date of receipt of application.

**3) Inspection report by Tree officer :-**

After receiving the application, the Tree officer will inspect the site and make the enquiry with adequate public notice by advertising in the local news paper as well as by affixing a notice on a conspicuous part of the tree which is required to be fell, for inviting any suggestion/ objection. The expert committee appointed by Tree Authority may also inspect the site and present their recommendations regarding the application. The Tree Officer will send the application and inspection report (**Annexure III**) with suggestion/ objection, if any in 30 days to the Tree Authority.

**4) Decision by Tree Authority :-**

The Tree Authority may give permission with or without conditions or refuse it within a period of 60 days from the date of receipt of the application. Such permission shall not be refused if, in the opinion of the Tree Authority, the tree is dead, diseased, wind fallen, poses a danger to life or property or obstructs traffic. However, no tree shall be felled until 15 days after such permission is given.

**5) Decision within 60 days :-**

If the Tree Authority fails to inform the applicant of its decision within sixty days, from the date of the receipt of the application by it, or if the receipt of the application has been acknowledged by it within this period, from the date of acknowledgement of the receipt of the application, the permission applied for shall be deemed to have been granted.

**6) Permission by Tree Authority with conditions :-**

Where permission to fell a tree is granted, subject to the condition that the applicant shall plant the trees in proportion of 2 (two) trees against 1 (one) fallen tree, of the same or suitable species on the same or another suitable place then applicant shall plant the required trees within 30 days from date on which tree is fallen or such extended time as the Tree officer may allow in this behalf.



The applicant also asked to deposit Rs.10000/- per fallen tree. This amount will be refunded after 3 years. It shall be duty of applicant or occupier of the land which is directed to plant a tree to see that the tree grows properly and is well preserved and shall give a report to the Tree Officer once in a six months about the conditions of such tree or trees for a period of three years.

The applicant or occupier of any land fails to comply with any order made (under Section of 8, 9 or 10 of the Act, the Tree Authority or the Tree Officer, as the case may be) after giving a reasonable opportunity to such owner or occupier of being heard (forfeit the deposit, in full or in part to the Tree Authority) and without prejudice to any other action which may be taken against the defaulter under this act, take the necessary action and recover the expenditure incurred therefore from the owner or the occupier as the case may be.

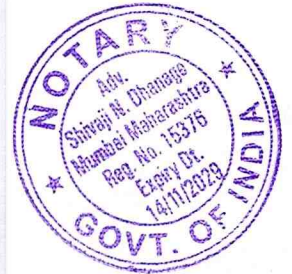
Above guidelines are issued with the approval of CEO, MIDC.

**Rajendra V  
Sonje**

Digitally signed by Rajendra V Sonje  
DN: c=IN, o=Maharashtra Industrial  
Development Corporation, ou=Maharashtra  
Industrial Development Corporation,  
postalCode=400093, st=Maharashtra,  
cn=Rajendra V Sonje  
Date: 2016.04.01 13:17:18 +05'30'

**Dy. Chief Executive Officer (Env.)  
MIDC (HQ), Mumbai-093.**

1. Copy submitted to Chief Executive Officer, MIDC, Mumbai-93 for favour of information please.
2. Copy f.w.c.s. to HOD's in MIDC for information.
3. Copy f.w.c.s. to Chief Engineers in MIDC for information.
4. Copy to all SE's in MIDC for information.
5. Copy to All Jt. CAO / Dy. CAO for information.
6. All Executive Engineers in MIDC
7. All SPA's in MIDC.
8. Copy to guard file.



24

**Annexure- I**

To,  
The Tree Authority,  
MIDC, Andheri (E),  
Mumbai-093.

**Sub. :- Permission for felling of tree /Trimming of tree / Re-plantation of tree**  
**under proposed development in \_\_\_\_\_ industrial area.**

Pursuant to Section 8 (2) of the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection & Preservation of Tree Act, 1975. I, undersigned hereby applying for felling of tree /Trimming of tree/Re-plantation in Plot No.\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ industrial area. The details are as below :

- 1) Name of applicant :- \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Location details :- \_\_\_\_\_ Industrial Area. Plot No. \_\_\_\_\_

Sr. No.	Location Detail	Number of trees at present	Number of trees proposed for felling/ trimming/ Re-plantation	Number of trees to be kept as it is.	Reasons of felling of tree / Trimming of tree/ Re-plantation

The location plan of the trees is attached herewith for your reference. Hereby I am giving assurance for Tree plantation/ Re-plantation & maintenance for the scheduled period of 3 years as per the directives of the tree authority. I am ready to submit the security deposit towards authority for the said purpose.

Yours faithfully,

(Applicant)



Documents to be attached with application –

- 1) Details of Plot.
- 2) Approved plan, if any
- 3) Photographs of trees to be fallen
- 4) Affidavit under Sect.11 (2)

## Annexure- II

### Affidavit

25

Date :-

To,  
The Tree Officer,  
MIDC\_\_\_\_\_.

Pursuant to Section 11 (2) of the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975. I hereby solemnly affirm that I shall abide by the Section No.8/9/10 of the aforesaid Act. Further I declare that I will plant the trees properly & preserve the same with existing trees. After plantation/ re-plantation I will preserve the trees for 3 years & will submit the report after every 6 months period to the authority. Further accordingly to the orders, I am ready to pay the security deposit. I am also aware that the security deposit will be forfeited if orders under section 8 & 9 of the above act are violated.

I am aware that, I will be liable for the legal action for violation of the act.

Sign of Applicant



26

**Annexure- III**

To,  
The Tree Authority,  
MIDC, Andheri (E),  
Mumbai-093.

**Sub. :- Site Inspection Report**

The site inspection report regarding tree cutting in \_\_\_\_\_ Incl.  
Area is submitted as follows :

Date :-

Time :-

1)	Name of Tree/ branches to be fallen	:	Name & Number of each species 1) 2) 3)			
2)	Age, height & Girth of tree	:	Name of species			
			Age			
			Height			
			Girth Size			
3)	Reason for which tree/ branches to be fallen	:				
4)	Location details of tree (to be shown on the plan)	:				
5)	Any possibility that the purpose will be solved without felling of tree/ branches ?	:				
6)	Remarks	:				

SPA /Tree Officer  
..... MIDC



**MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

(A Government Of Maharashtra Undertaking)

**CIRCULAR**

NO/MIDC/CP/TREE AUTHORITY/2017/APRIL/ B40958

DATE 20/04/2017

**SUB: The guidelines for felling /re-plantation/trimming of tree**

MIDC has appointed as a special planning authority by MRTTP Act 1966 and as per Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection & Preservation of Tree Act, 1975 the said authority can constitute a Tree Authority in accordance with the provisions of the said Act for protection and preservation of trees and granting permission expeditiously within the jurisdiction of MIDC. Therefore, MIDC constituted its Tree Authority & the officer functioning as SPA for particular area are as Tree Officer for the area under jurisdiction vide Office order No. MIDC/CP/B91092/2015 dtd.03.08.2015 issued by CEO, MIDC.

In order to streamline the Tree Authority function and role Tree Authority guidelines/procedure were issued wide circular No.MIDC/Dy.C.E.O.(Env.)/2016/A98080 dtd 30/03/2016 Now In order to bring the clarity and fast disposal of cases following are guidelines

**A) PROCEDURE AND TIME LIMIT FOR INSPECTION ‘**

The applicant /plot holder shall make an application in prescribed format to the Tree Officer/Tree Authority along with application fees of Rs.6000/- in cash or DD. As per **Annexure- I** The required documents for the application are a) Details of Plot. b) Approved plan, if any.c) Photographs of the trees with numbering. d) The location details of the trees to be fallen shown on the map. e) The location details of new plantation /re-plantation. f) Affidavit as per **Annexure- II** on bond of Rs.100/-.

After receiving the application, the Tree officer /SPA will inspect the site within seven working days

**B)INSPECTION REPORT FORMAT**

Format of Inspection report is revised and attached herewith at ANUXURE III along with this Circular

**C)INSPECTION REPORT TO BE UPLOADED ON MIDCWEBSITE WITHIN 24 HRS OF INSPECTION**

Inspector/Tree officer /SPA will upload the inspection report on MIDC Website within 24 hrs of inspection

**D).REPLANTING REQUIREMENTS**

As per the orders of Hon Tree Authority replanting requirements for plots with varying tree populations following norms has been finalised

- 1) One tree for every 100 sqmt of plot or part thereof as per Clause 39 of DCR MIDC
- 2) Plantation ratio for felling trees 1:5 Where the permission to fell a tree is granted ,subject to condition that applicant shall plant 5 (five ) trees against one fallen tree



28

- 3) Plantation ratio for Transplanted tree 1;2 Where the permission to Transplant a tree is granted, subject to condition that applicant shall plant 2(two ) trees against one Transplanted tree
- 4) Security Deposit of Rs.10,000 per felling and transplanted tree

**E)UPLOADING OF INSPECTION REPORTS AND PERMISSIOON GRANTED BY SPA OF LAST TWO YEARS ON WEB SITE WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THIS CIRCULAR**

Inspector /Tree officer /SPA will upload the past inspection reports and permission granted by spa of last two years on web site within 15 days of this circular

All other guidelines of Tree Authority mentioned in the Circular Dated 30/3/2016 with reference no MIDC/DY.CEO (Env)/2016/A98080 will remain same

**Kamalakar S Akode**

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DN: c=IN, o=Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, ou=Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, postalCode=400093, st=Maharashtra, serialNumber=84eb98d3d656849e410b1a95d226edce3037768ab5b602302a4ae31006b177ff, cn=Kamalakar S Akode  
Date: 2017.04.20 17:46:51 +05'30'

CHIEF PLANNER MIDC

Copy submitted to Chief Executive Officer, MIDC, Mumbai-93 for favour of information please

Copy f.w.c.s. to HOD's in MIDC for information.

Copy f.w.c.s. to Chief Engineers in MIDC for information.

Copy to all SE's in MIDC for information.

Copy to All Jt. CAO / Dy. CAO for information.

All Executive Engineers in MIDC

All SPA's in MIDC.

Copy to guard file



MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)

29

CIRCULAR

NO/MIDC/CEO/TREE AUTHORITY/2019/JAN/A30593

DATE 23/01/2019

SUB: The guidelines for felling, re-transplantation of High Risk Category of trees in

MIDC

MIDC has constituted Tree Authority under the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection & Preservation of Tree Act, 1975 as a Special Planning Authority for granting tree felling permission expeditiously vide Office order no. MIDC/CP/B91092/2015 dtd.03.08.2015. As per Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection & Preservation of Tree Rules 2009 following are the functions to be performed by SPA Tree Officer along with various forms and register to be maintained for MIDC Areas;

1. The Tree Officer shall carry out census of the existing trees within their jurisdiction in the Form – A.
2. The Tree Officer shall prescribe the standard specifying the tree and type of trees which each plot of land shall have in Form –B.
3. An application for felling of trees shall be made in Form –C and shall be submitted along with an undertaking in Form –D. The Tree Officer shall maintain the report of permission granted for felling of trees in the register in Form –E.
4. Where permission to fell /re-transplantation a tree is granted subject to condition that the applicant shall plant the trees in proportion of 1:5 and 1:3 i.e. five trees against one fallen and three trees against one re-transplantation of tree. This additional plantation of trees shall be of local species having height of 3m, which shall be planted on the same or another suitable place as directed. The applicant shall plant the required trees within 30 days from the date on which tree is fallen or such extended time as SPA Tree Officer may allow in this behalf. It is also necessary to strictly maintain the ratio of trees for plantation in case of both felling and re-transplantation.

However it is observed that while granting permission for felling, re-transplantation proper inventory plot wise is not maintained by concerned SPA/ Tree Officer .Therefore following are the instructions issued to SPA /Tree Officer,

- a) In the case of High Risk Trees where felling and re-transplantation permission is granted additional bank guarantee of Rs 30,000/- per tree may be taken from the applicant. This bank guarantee is in addition to security deposit of Rs 10,000/- per tree as per circular dated 20/04/2017.
- b) Necessary undertaking in the Form D should be taken from Lessee about the bank guarantee along with security deposit will get forfeited in case of non-compliance under Section 8 , 9 Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection & Preservation of Tree Act, 1975.
- c) It is also necessary that after site visit Concerned SPA, Tree Officer and concerned Regional Officer shall jointly submit the quarterly progress report to Tree Authority regarding survival of transplanted trees along with survival report of planted trees. Visuals in the form of video should be recorded from initial stage to final stage for felling and re-transplantation along with progress growth of newly planted trees.

All other guidelines of Tree Authority mentioned in the Circulars earlier issued regarding Tree Authority submission procedure will remain same

Sanjay D Patil

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Date: 2019.01.23 15:24:53 +05'30'

MEMBER SECRETARY TREE AUTHORITY MIDC

- Copy submitted to Chief Executive Officer, MIDC, Mumbai-93 for favour of information please
- Copy f.w.c.s.to HOD's in MIDC for information.
- Copy f.w.c.s. to Chief Engineers in MIDC for information.
- Copy to all SE's /Executive Engineers in MIDC / All SPA's in MIDC in MIDC for information.
- Copy to All RO'S /All Jt. CAO / Dy. CAO for information. /Copy to guard file



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Exhibit - E

MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)

CIRCULAR

No. MIDC/CP/Tree Authority/A17048/2023

Date: 13 /01/2023

**Sub: Revised guidelines for procedure of obtaining permit for felling /transplantation / trimming of trees in MIDC as per Maharashtra (Urban area) Protection and Preservation of Trees (Amendment) Act, 2021 (Maharashtra Act no. IX of 2021 dt. 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021).**

Ref: 1) Circular No. MIDC/CP/B19092 dt. 03/08/2015.

2) Circular No. MIDC/Dy. CEO (Env) /2016/A98080 dt. 30/03/2016

3) Circular No. MIDC/CP/Tree Authority/2017/B40958 dt. 20/04/2017

4) Circular No. MIDC/CP/CEO/Tree Authority /2019/Jan/A30593 Dt. 23/01/2019

Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) has been appointed as a Special Planning Authority by virtue of provisions of sub section 1A of section 40 of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966 for any area where Chapter VI of Maharashtra Industrial Development Act, 1961 applies or for any area comprising of Govt. Land transferred to the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation. As per section 3 of the Maharashtra (Urban Area) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act 1975, the said authority can constitute a Tree Authority for granting permission for protection and preservation of trees in the jurisdiction of said authority. Accordingly MIDC, as a Special Planning Authority has constituted a Tree Authority for granting permission for tree felling / transplanting / trimming of trees vide office order no. MIDC/CP/B19092 dt. 03/08/2015. Thereafter, various circulars have also been issued as guidelines to streamline the procedure under Ease of Doing Business reforms.

The State Government has amended Maharashtra (Urban Area) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975 as published in Government Gazette of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and constituted a State Tree Authority to monitor functioning of Tree Authorities in the state and to decide applications referred to it by the Tree Authority. A new concept of Heritage Tree is introduced and certain changes in the norms of compensatory tree plantation have been introduced. Revised guidelines as per the said amendment in the Act are as follows-

1) As per guidelines issued by Government of Maharashtra on 24/06/2021, any tree having age more than 50 years is termed as 'Heritage Tree'. In such cases, the Tree Authority will refer the matter to the Maharashtra State Tree Authority with its report and recommendation. Regarding age of the tree, certificate of officer not below the

30



rank of Range Forest Officer of the Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra shall be obtained for each tree proposed for felling/ transplantation.

2) For every tree proposed for felling/transplantation, trees of same variety or any other local or native variety shall be planted equal to the age of the trees proposed for felling/transplantation. Height of such trees to be planted shall be at least six feet. Each tree shall be geo-tagged. Such transplantation shall be carried out under expert guidance only.

3) Such compensatory tree plantation shall preferably be on the same plot. If sufficient space is not available for compensatory tree plantation on the same plot, then such compensatory tree plantation may be allowed on MIDC areas in consultation with concerned Tree Officer and Regional Officer. Such plantation shall be scientific in nature.

4) Where more than two hundred trees with the age of five years or more are proposed to be felled, in such cases, the Tree Authority shall refer the matter to Maharashtra State Tree Authority with its report and recommendation.

5) The Tree Officer shall ensure that compensatory plantation shall be geo-tagged and monitored using latest available technology. The trees planted should be taken care for a minimum period of seven years. It shall be ensured that the tree mortality during this period shall be compensated by planting equal number of new trees.

6) The Tree Officer shall ensure that the development of land or project is not sub divided in smaller parts so as to keep the number of trees to be felled below two hundred.

These revised guidelines will be applicable with immediate effect. All concerned officers are hereby directed to strictly follow the same.

This circular is issued with the prior approval of Hon. CEO, MIDC.

**SANJAY  
DONGAR PATIL**

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SANJAY DONGAR PATIL  
Date: 2023.01.13  
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Chief Planner  
MIDC, Mumbai – 93.

Copy submitted to Hon. CEO, MIDC for favour of information please.

Copy submitted to Hon. Jt. CEO (Admin/SP) for information.

Copy FWCs to Dy. CEO (Env.) / Dy. CEO (I/II/III/IV) for information.

Copy FWCs to all HoDs for information.

Copy to all SEs/EEs/ROs for information.

Copy to all SPAs and Tree Officers for information and necessary action.



**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL  
GREEN TRIBUNAL  
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 232 OF  
2024 (WZ)**

Banda Nagraj Kumar ... Applicant  
Versus  
Maharashtra Industrial Development  
Corporation & Ors. ... Respondents

**AFFIDAVIT IN REPLY ON BEHALF OF  
RESPONDENT NO. 1**

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.



Little & Co.  
Advocates for the Respondent No.1  
Mumbai 400 001.