



सूचना  
का अधिकार



पावरग्रिड

पावर ग्रिड कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड  
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited  
सूचना का अधिकार अभिनियम 2005 के अंतर्गत केन्द्रीय लोक सूचना अधिकारी  
Central Public Information Officer under the RTI Act, 2005  
केन्द्रीय कार्यालय, 'सौदामिनी', प्लॉट नं.2, सेक्टर-29, गुडगांव, हरियाणा-122007  
Corporate Centre, 'Saudamini', Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana-122007

CP/RTI/2018/249

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2018

**Shri Rohit Vasant Kale,**  
**Flat no. 306**  
**Gokuldham Apartmemnts**  
**Near CC shrift ho,**  
**Barkatpura, Hyderabad -500027**

**Sub: Information under Right to Information Act, 2005.**

Sir,

This has reference to your RTI request dated 26<sup>th</sup> Jun,2018 (received on 18<sup>th</sup> Jul, 2018 from MoP) for providing information under RTI Act, 2005.

Information available as on date is attached at **Annexure-I**.

First Appeal, if any, against the reply of CPIO may be made to the first appellate Authority within 30 days of the receipt of the reply of CPIO. Details of Appellate Authority at Corporate Centre, Gurgaon, under RTI Act, 2005 is as below:

Shri Sanjeev Singh,  
Executive Director (CMG) & Appellate Authority  
Corporate Centre, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited  
"Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon – 122007, Haryana.  
Email ID: [sanjeev@powergridindia.com](mailto:sanjeev@powergridindia.com)  
Phone No. 0124-2571962

Thanking you,

भवदीय,

(अजय होलानी)

अपर महाप्रबंधक (के.आ.) एवं के.लो.सू.अधिकारी

Email ID: [cpio.cc@powergrid.co.in](mailto:cpio.cc@powergrid.co.in)

**Point wise reply to RTI Query of Sh Rohit Vasant Kale is as given below:**

- 1. Do you or any of your departments or subsidiaries indulge in the practice of trimming of any green member on your command for any purpose (like for the fear that they might grow close to live high tension wires or fear that they might break or the tree might fall and subsequent discontinuation of electric supply (blackout) or damage to supply lines)?**
  - Yes, To maintain electrical clearance, POWERGRID follows CEA safety regulation (notified vide Gazette Notification dated 20.09.2010) and Ministry of Environment and Forests Guidelines that may involve lopping/ felling of trees coming in the danger zone ('A').
  
- 2. Kindly give a detailed list of areas or states in which this practice is highly prevalent if possible (alternatively acknowledge that it is carried out all throughout India in all states)?**
  - Since, POWERGRID's projects are spread across the country, such practice is followed whenever required to maintain the desired clearance.
  
- 3. Kindly provide a list of States where electricity is provided in an underground basis and those in which electricity is still predominantly supplied by overhead lines?**
  - All POWERGRID's Transmission Lines are overhead EHV Transmission Lines and are located away from cities/villages.
  
- 4. Do you take permission of the Ministry of Environment for doing the trimming or cutting of branches, every time you (or others under you in charge of the same), initiate the process?**
  - MoEF jurisdiction is on forest land only. Whenever, cutting/ lopping takes place in forest area, due permission of MoEF and its allied offices is taken. However, certain states have also enacted legislations to prevent tree felling in non-forest area which also requires prior permission of designated authorities. The same is obtained wherever applicable while cutting the trees.
  
- 5. Do you have a separate department for doing the trimming or cutting of major branches?**
  - No. However, it is the responsibility of the Operation and Maintenance team to carry out regular checking to prevent any tripping due to interference of any tree coming in the safety zone.
  
- 6. Do you have a written policy of how to select a branch which is at risk for the same. How do you prevent over trimming or over cutting or cutting of major branches or even the major trunks for this fear. Do you have any control over it?**
  - This is done as per provisions of CEA safety regulation (notified vide Gazette Notification dated 20.09.2010) and IS:5613.

**7. Do you follow any steps for ensuring that you or your subsidiaries do not overdo the trimming? If yes, give a short list of these steps?**

- Yes, all due precautions are taken to minimize the felling of the trees. POWERGRID is the only organization who has developed a comprehensive Environmental and Social Policy and Procedures (ESPP) which defines the procedures/ measures for such activities. Moreover, the construction manuals are also in place to avoid/ minimize cutting of trees.

**8. Are you aware of the environmental impacts of this procedure of extensive trimming or cutting of green members?**

- Yes.

**9. Kindly give the list of initiative that you have started to prevent this kind of over trimming? Kindly answer no such initiative if there is none?**

- It may be noted that the POWERGRID's efforts in reduction of involvement of forest after development of ESPP has resulted in reduction of forest area from earlier 6% in 1998 to 2% presently. Apart from that, many other initiatives including plantation in all our premises are taken to minimize possible environment and social issues which are also disclosed in the biennial Sustainability Reports.

**10. Who does the trimming? Are they your own employees?**

- As explained above in reply no. 4, in forest area, it is carried out by the forest authorities. However, in non-forest area, such trimming is being done by the trained contractor employees.

**11. Are you aware.....about this incident?**

- The instance quoted cannot be applied to POWERGRID lines which are Extra High Voltage and all such activities are carried out after proper shut down or if done on live line, only trained personnels with required safety suits are only allowed to work on live line.

**12. Do you have any records of such accidents.....such data is available?**

- Not Applicable (hired skilled manpower do trimming of Tress under direct supervision of POWERGRID employee(s) in addition to other maintenance Activities.

**13. Who has the responsibility.....not employed by the department?**

- Hired skilled manpower do trimming of Tress under direct supervision of POWERGRID employee(s) in addition to other maintenance Activities. In case of accident, there is provision of compensation to be paid to the victim as per compensation act.

**14. Do you have a facility.....episodes at all?**

- Yes, All trimming, lopping, cutting of trees are being done as and when required at different sites in line with MOE&F guidelines under Forest conservation Act & Rules for laying of transmission lines through forest area.

**15. Do you give contract to other nongovernment contractors for the cutting branches? In that case, do you have a written policy of how much trimming is good and how much is bad?**

- Yes, All trimming, lopping, cutting of trees are being done as and when required at different sites under supervision of POWERGRID employees.

**16. Do you train the people whom you employ for the same?**

- Yes.

**17. How much do you pay them.....doing the trimming?**

- Skilled manpower is hired for different operation and maintenance work in transmission lines. There is no separate pay for tree cutting/ lopping/ trimming

**18. Do you have any initiative to compensate for the loss of green cover occurring due to this activity of the departments under you?**

- Yes, in case of forest area, the provision of raising compensatory afforestation on double degraded forest land in lieu of forest land to be diverted is in place. In case of non-forest area, land and cost as per provisions of applicable rules are provided for alternate plantation. Moreover, POWERGRID carried out massive plantation in all its establishments.

**19. Have you employed anyone for cutting or trimming of green members on a regular basis?**

- No.

**20. Are you aware of any environmental impacts of such action?**

- Yes.

**21. What is the Ministry's stand on Global Warming and Climate Change. What is the level of awareness about the same to the various staff. Kindly answer in the following format.**

- Not Aware at all-i.e. the level of awareness is poor even in higher officials specially the significance or severity or the
- Only the higher officials are aware, the lower staff is unaware.
- Most of the staff including the labour which is utilized for trimming trees is aware.

- Yes, POWERGRID officials at all levels are fully aware of Global Warming and Climate Change issues which can be gauged by the initiatives undertaken by us to combat Global warming and resulting climate change. The details of which are regularly disclosed in our Annual Reports and biennial Sustainability Reports. For details, please refer the following link: <http://www.powergridindia.com/sustainability-report>.
- As already mentioned earlier ESPP is being implemented in all POWERGRID's projects in true spirit since it is made part of contract document along with EMP. Most of the staff including the labor who are utilized for trimming of trees are aware of the provisions and all such activity are being undertaken under overall supervision of POWERGRID officials.

**22. Has the Ministry taken any initiative to educate those under you about the significance of these terms and also about commitments that India has made to the United Nations in Paris Agreement? Kindly give an answer in Yes or No with a short comment?**

- Yes, POWERGRID has undertaken many training programs/ workshops in which commitments of India to United Nations as per Paris Agreement are also informed. Moreover, the initiatives/ measures disclosed in Sustainability Reports referred above in point no. 21 are focused on achieving India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

**23. Are you aware of the article 48(A) of the constitution and the responsibility which this article puts on the Government of India and all its subsidiaries i.e. to protect the environment. Kindly give answer in Yes or No and short comment if needed?**

- Yes, POWERGRID is fully aware of article 48(A) and has made specific reference of it in their ESPP along with other constitutional provision under Article 51 A (g) which provides for citizens duty towards protection of environment.

**24. Are you or your subsidiaries aware that these are live plants and that there is difference between cutting of human hair and cutting of live plants?**

- Yes, POWERGRID is aware of distinction between trimming of trees and human hair but would also like to be enlighten by you further to make desired improvement.

**25. What do you think will be the impact if this practice is completely given up....not?**

- The information sought is in the form of seeking interpretation/clarification from POWERGRID. Seeking questions/ interpretation/ opinion / explanation, etc. from the public authority do not fall under the purview of the RTI Act, 2005. Hence no reply is being offered.

**26. Are there .....if yes?**

- Not Applicable to POWERGRID.